A BOOK OF PRAYERS

A Book of Prayers

LIBRARY OF THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A Book of Prayers

FOR PUBLIC AND PERSONAL USE

BY

SAMUEL McCOMB, M. A., D. D.

Author of "Christianity and the Modern Mind," etc.
Co-Author of "Religion and Medicine"

NEW YORK
Dodd, Mead and Company
1912

Copyright, 1912.
By Dodd, Mead & Co.

Published, February, 1912.

In Memoriam

J. E. McC.

Hi sunt, qui venerunt de tribulatione magna, et laverunt stolas suas, et dealbaverunt eas in sanguine Agni.

Preface

THIS little book, it is hardly necessary to say, is not offered as a substitute for any of the existing forms of devotion. On the contrary, it presupposes the use of these forms, and claims only to supplement them, as far as may be. The collects of the Book of Common Prayer, owing to their stateliness of style, their conciseness of expression, and a certain archaic literary flavour, are especially adapted to the needs of public liturgical worship. But these same qualities make them less suited for personal or family or informal use. Moreover each age is conscious of peculiar trials and problems, and must express this consciousness in its own words. Not only must each generation win the truth for itself, but the truth so won must touch deeply the springs of its religious life,

and in this way must influence its devotional feeling. There are signs that both inside and outside the Church a revival of belief in prayer is making itself felt and demands outward expression. Especially in two directions is this revival at work. There is the ever-present social problem, which in our time has assumed a new sharpness and insistence. A social passion is taking captive many noble hearts. Hence modern prayer must become more and more steeped in the sense of human fellowship. The other problem, old but ever new, is that of moral and physical evil. The modern man is more keenly sensitive to pain and suffering than his forerunners. There are facts of experience, which must not be thought on save in the spirit of prayer, else they may turn the soul to despair. As the human mind develops in fineness and keenness of vision, it can be saved from

pessimism only through the conviction that God is not the source of evil, physical or moral, but that He is eternally using His energies to oppose and overcome it. Our views of God, of evil, of human nature, and of human destiny, cannot but be reflected in our prayers.

It is hoped that this book may, in some degree, meet the needs of those who desire to pray, and yet for various reasons, are hindered in the art of self-expression.

Contents

✠

Part First

PAGE

GENERAL PRAYERS 1–130

Part Second

INTERCESSORY AND PERSONAL PRAYERS

FOR A PERSON WHO CANNOT PRAY. 133

FOR A PERSON WHO DESIRES FAITH 135

FOR A PERSON TROUBLED WITH EVIL THOUGHTS 137

FOR A VICTIM OF FEAR. 139

FOR A VICTIM OF WORRY 141

FOR A PERSON SUFFERING FROM NEURASTHENIA 143

FOR A PERSON SUFFERING FROM INSOMNIA 145

FOR A PERSON SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION 147

FOR A PERSON THREATENED WITH INSANITY 149

FOR A PERSON STRIVING TO OVERCOME THE ALCOHOL HABIT . . 151

FOR THE INSANE 153

PAGE

FOR A PERSON HAUNTED WITH THE FEAR OF COMMITTING SUICIDE 156

FOR A PERSON WHO FEARS THAT IN DYING HE WILL LOSE A SENSE OF PERSONAL IDENTITY 158

FOR A PERSON SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS ILLNESS 160

FOR A SICK CHILD 163

FOR A PERSON ABOUT TO UNDERGO A SURGICAL OPERATION 165

FOR A PERSON SUFFERING FROM ACUTE BODILY PAIN 167

FOR A PERSON AT THE POINT OF DEATH 169

FOR AN INCURABLY CRIPPLED CHILD 171

FOR A PERSON SUFFERING FROM A SENSE OF LONELINESS 173

FOR A PERSON HAUNTED WITH THE FEAR OF HAVING COMMITTED THE UNPARDONABLE SIN . . . 175

FOR A WOMAN BURDENED WITH DOMESTIC CARES 177

FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD BY DEATH 179

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DEPARTED FRIENDS 181

FOR CHILDREN 183

FOR A MOTHER GRIEVING FOR A WAYWARD CHILD 185

PAGE

FOR THE AGED 187
FOR THE POOR 189
FOR THE PROSPEROUS 191
FOR PRISONERS 193
FOR DOCTORS OF MEDICINE 196
FOR NURSES 198
FOR STUDENTS 200
FOR TEACHERS 202
FOR HANDWORKERS 204
FOR MINISTERS OF RELIGION . . . 207
FOR MISSIONARIES 209
FOR FRIENDS ON A JOURNEY . . . 211
THANKSGIVING FOR RESTORATION TO HEALTH 213
THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY OVER A BAD HABIT 215

FOR PERSONAL USE

AT NIGHT. (THREE PRAYERS) . . 219
IN THE MORNING. (FOUR PRAYERS) 222
IN TIME OF TEMPTATION 226
IN TIME OF SUFFERING 227
BEFORE PARTAKING AT HOLY COMMUNION 228
AFTER PARTAKING AT HOLY COMMUNION 230

Part First

GENERAL PRAYERS

OUR Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

I

O THOU, who didst lay the foundations of the earth amid the singing of the morning stars and the joyful shouts of the sons of God, lift up our little life into Thy gladness. Out of Thee, as out of an overflowing fountain of Love, wells forth eternally a stream of blessing upon every creature Thou hast made. If we have thought that Thou didst call into being this universe in order to win praise and honour for Thyself, rebuke the vain fancies of our foolish minds and show us that Thy glory is the joy of giving. We can give Thee nothing of our own. All that we have is Thine. Oh, then, help us to glorify Thee by striving to be like Thee. Make us just and pure and good as Thou

art. May we be partakers of the Divine Nature, so that all that is truly human in us may be deepened, purified, and strengthened. And so may we be witnesses for Thee, lights of the world, reflecting Thy light.

Help us to make religion a thing so beautiful that all men may be won to surrender to its power. Let us manifest in our lives its sweetness and excellency, its free and ennobling spirit. Forbid that we should go up and down the world with melancholy looks and dejected visage, lest we should repel men from entering Thy Kingdom. Rather, may we walk in the freedom and joy of faith, and with Thy new song in our mouths, so that men looking on us may learn to trust and to love Thee.

We come to Thee, our Father, that we may more deeply enter into Thy joy. Thou turnest darkness into day, and mourning into praise. Thou art our Fortress in temptation, our Shield in remorse, our Covert in calamity, our Star of Hope in every sorrow. O Lord, we would know Thy peace, deep, abiding, inexhaustible. When we seek Thy peace, our weariness is gone, the sense of our imperfection ceases to discourage us, and our tired souls forget their pain. When, strengthened and refreshed by Thy goodness, we return to the task of life, send us forth as servants of Jesus Christ in the service and redemption of the world. Send us to the hearts without love, to men and women burdened with heavy cares, to the miserable, the sad, the broken-hearted. Send

us to the children whose heritage has been a curse, to the poor who doubt Thy Providence, to the sick who crave for healing and cannot find it, to the fallen for whom no man cares. May we be ministers of Thy mercy, messengers of Thy helpful pity, to all who need Thee. By our sympathy, our prayers, our kindness, our gifts, may we make a way for the inflow of Thy love into needy and loveless lives. And so may we have that love which alone is the fulfilling of Thy law. Hasten the time when all men shall love Thee and one another in Thee, when all the barriers that divide us shall be broken down, and every heart shall be filled with joy and every tongue with melody. These gracious gifts we ask, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

II

O INFINITE Source of life and health and joy! the very thought of Thee is so wonderful that in this thought we would rest and be still. Thou art Beauty and Grace and Truth and Power. Thou art the light of every heart that sees Thee, the life of every soul that loves Thee, the strength of every mind that seeks Thee. From our narrow and bounded world we would pass into Thy greater world. From our petty and miserable selves we would escape to Thee, to find in Thee the power and the freedom of a larger life. It is our joy that we can never go beyond Thy reach; that even were we to take the wings of the morning, and fly unto the uttermost parts of the earth,

or were we to make our bed in hell, there should we find signs of Thy presence and Thy power. Wherever we may go Thou art with us, for Thou art in us as well as without us. We recognise Thee in all the deeper experiences of the soul. When the conscience utters its warning voice, when the heart is tender and we forgive those who have wronged us in word or deed, when we feel ourselves upborne above time and place, and know ourselves citizens of Thy everlasting Kingdom, we realise, O Lord, that these things, while they are in us, are not of us. They are Thine, the work of Thy Spirit brooding upon our souls.

Spirit of Holiness and Peace! Search all our motives; try the secret places of our souls; set in

the light any evil that may lurk within, and lead us in the way everlasting. Take possession of our bodies. Purge them from feebleness and sloth, from all unworthy self-indulgence, that they may not hinder, but help the perfection of our spirits. Take possession of our wills that they may be one with Thine, that soul and body may no longer war against each other, but live in perfect harmony, in holiness and health. May we be willing to cut off the right hand, or pluck out the right eye, if only we may feel Thy life pulsing within us, and share the blessedness of all good and pious men. Wake us as from the sleep of death, and inspire us with new resolves, and keep us blameless in body, soul and spirit, now and ever. Let

Thy light fill our hearts more and more, until we shall become in truth the children of light, and perfectly at one with Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

III

O GOD, our Refuge and our Strength! Thou art so high that the very Heaven of Heavens cannot contain Thee, yet dost Thou dwell with him that is of a contrite and humble spirit. Everywhere Thou art seeking the wandering, those who have forgotten the warnings of parent and teacher and friend, who have despised the oracles of conscience, and are now sore pierced with the thorns of earth. Thou dost not despair when Thou findest us degraded and miserable in our sin, but bringest us forgiveness and hope. We are overwhelmed, O Lord, with wonder, to think that Thou dost believe in us, and wilt not let us go. From the pleasures of sin, from the torment

of guilt, from poverty and blighted hopes and ill-requited love, we turn to Thee, our Father, for comfort and satisfaction. Make clear to us how the evils of the soul war against our happiness and health, how we are so fearfully and wonderfully made that not a wrong thought, or base desire, or strained emotion, but leaves its mark upon our bodies. Take possession of us, and so inspire us with great thoughts and noble aspirations and unselfish feelings, that our bodies may become fit temples for the habitation of Thy good Spirit. So occupy us with self-forgetting service for Thee that no time or strength may remain for our besetting sins. Lay upon us the burdens of the weak, the crosses of other lives. Are any sick? Let us bring to them help

and good cheer, and, if it may be, some gift of healing. Are there any naked and hungry? Let us clothe and feed them. Are there any sad and depressed? Give to us the insight and the sympathy, in the presence of which the burdened heart will be eased and the darkened mind illumined. Are there any remorseful and despairing? Speak to them through us, as Thine organs, and say, "I am thy salvation." Thus may the fires of a Christlike charity burn with a steady flame within us, and thus may our souls be kept pure and fresh and strong. O true and holy Light, that lightenest every man, shine into these hearts of ours that we may hold converse with the sinful, yet contract no stain; that we may share the pleasures and mingle in the noise

and dust of life, yet keep our garments unspotted from the world. Forgive us that we have sinned so often against those around us, by failing to draw near to them and to understand them, by want of pity for their trials and sorrows, by passing on our heedless way, with no ear for the still, sad voices of weary and laden souls. Henceforth let us arm ourselves with the mind that was in Christ Jesus, who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many. Let the glory of His Cross be the inspiration of all our thought and service, that suffering with Him here, we may reign with Him hereafter. Hear us and answer us, for His sake. *Amen.*

IV

GREAT is Thy name, O God, and greatly to be praised. In Thee all our discordant notes rise into perfect harmony. It is good for us to think of the wonder of Thy being. Thou art most silent, yet most strong; unchangeable, yet ever changing; ever working, yet ever at rest, supporting, nourishing, maturing all things. O Thou Eternal Spirit, who hast set our noisy years in the heart of Thy eternity, lift us above the power and evils of the passing time, that under the shadow of Thy wings we may take courage and be glad. So great art Thou, beyond our utmost imagining, that we could not speak to Thee didst Thou not first draw near to us and say, "Seek

ye my face." Unto Thee our hearts would make reply, "Thy face, Lord, will we seek." And when we look up to Thee, the words of our lips are words of humility and thanksgiving. Who or what are we that Thou shouldst follow us with goodness and mercy all the days of life? We thank Thee for our birth into a Christian community, for the Church and the Sacraments of Thy grace, for the healing day of rest, when we enter with Thy people into Thy House and there make holyday; for the refreshment of soul, the joys of communion, the spiritual discipline, the inspiration of prayer and hymn and sermon. We thank Thee for Thy watchful care over body and soul alike. Thou hast kept our eyes from tears, or, if the tears came, Thine own hand

wiped them away. Thou hast kept our feet from falling, or if we fell, Thou didst not forsake us, but guided us back to the holy paths of Christ. We praise Thee for the myriad influences of good, conscious and unconscious, that have been about us, deeply penetrating our inner life, shaping and fitting us for Thy Kingdom. Thou hast indeed forgiven all our iniquities, and healed all our diseases, and redeemed our life from destruction, and crowned us with loving-kindness. Therefore would we call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to bless Thy holy Name.

We remember with sadness our want of faith in Thee. What might have been a garden we have turned into a desert by our sin and wilfulness. This beautiful

life which Thou hast given us we have wasted in futile worries and vain regrets and empty fears. Instead of opening our eyes to the joy of life, the joy that shines in the leaf, the flower, the face of an innocent child, and rejoicing in it as in a sacrament, we have sunk back into the complainings of our narrow and blinded souls. O deliver us from the bondage of unchastened desires and unwholesome thoughts. Help us to conquer hopeless brooding and faithless reflection, and the impatience of irritable weakness. To this end, increase our faith, O Lord. Fill us with a completer trust in Thee, and the desire for a more whole-hearted surrender to Thy will. Then every sorrow will become a joy. Then shall we say to the mountains that lie

heavy on our souls, "Remove and be cast hence," and they shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto us. Then shall we renew our strength, and mount up with wings as eagles; we shall run and not be weary; we shall walk and not faint. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

V

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, whom no man hath seen at any time, who art Spirit and the Father of our spirits, unto Thee do we come. When we think of Thee we are troubled, for we know we have not surrendered ourselves to Thy service, which is our highest good; yet we are drawn to Thee, and we say with one of old, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee." Bring us at this time into Thy banqueting-house, and may Thy banner over us be Love. We would tell Thee all our wants, our sorrows and our sins, that out of the fullness of Thy grace we may receive healing and forgiveness.

We lament our desires covetous

of worldly things, the coldness of our affections, the prayerlessness of our lives, the want of relish for Thy law. Forgive us all that our resolves to lead the higher life have been so easily broken, and grant us true repentance, that henceforth we may build our lives on the abiding foundation of Thy holy will, as it is revealed in Jesus Christ. Cause us to walk in the paths of purity and sincerity, to renounce the hidden things of dishonesty, and to have no fellowship with the works of darkness. We pant for a purer air, a wider space. O God, lead us out of the twilight of our own dark, narrow souls into Thy glorious light, that we may be the children, not of the night, but of the day. Strengthen us, that we may finish the work Thou hast given us to do. Com-

fort us in the troubles that wait upon our earthly lot. Guide us through the shadows of time into Thy blessed eternity.

We invoke Thy blessing upon all who need Thee, and who are groping after Thee, if haply they may find Thee. Be gracious to those who bear the sins of others, who are vexed by the wrong-doing and selfishness of those near and dear to them, and reveal to them the glory of their fellowship with the sufferings of Christ. Brood in tenderness over the hearts of the anxious, the miserable, the victims of phantasmal fears and morbid imaginings. Redeem from slavery the men and women who have yielded to degrading habits. Put Thy Spirit within them, that they may rise up in shame and sorrow and make

confession to Thee, "So brutish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before Thee." And then let them have the glad assurance that Thou art with them, the secret of all good, the promise and potency of better things. Console with Thy large consolation, those who mourn for their loved dead, who count the empty places and long for the sound of a voice that is still. Inspire them with the firm conviction that the dead are safe in Thy keeping, nay, that they are not dead, but live unto Thee. Give to all sorrowing ones a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Remember for good all who are perplexed with the mysteries of existence, and who grieve because the world is so sad and unin-

telligible. Teach them that Thy hand is on the helm of affairs, that Thou dost guide Thine own world, and canst change every dark cloud into bright sunshine. In this faith let them rest, and by this faith let them live. These blessings we ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

VI

ETERNAL God, rise with Thy morning upon our souls, and call us to consecrate another day to Thy service. We thank Thee for rest and sleep, and for Thy watchful care throughout the hours of darkness. Thou hast been as a wall of fire about our home, and Thyself the glory in the midst. Thou dost care for each one of us, as if Thou didst care for him only, and for all as if they were but one. We would commit our ways to Thee afresh. Sustain us amid all our work, and solve the problems of our life that are too hard for us. May we be strong in the faith that all things work together for good to them that love Thee. O God, our allotted time is as the passing of

a shadow. Our life vanishes away even as a mist is scattered before the burning beams of the sun. Without Thee we cannot live and dare not die. Draw us into fellowship with Thy mind and will, that, renouncing the vain things which in times past have charmed, we may yield ourselves unreservedly to Thee, that Thou mayst use us to advance Thy cause and Kingdom in the world. Send forth Thy Spirit into our hearts to quicken us with fresh zeal and devout aspiration, to rouse us to renewed struggle against the evil that is within and without us. We rejoice in the message which Jesus Christ, Thy Son, has brought us, which tells us of Thy self-sacrifice, in surrendering Him to death that we might win the blessedness for which we were created. When in

the misery and confusion of our guilt we shrink before the look of Thy holiness, it is His voice that speaks the word which comforts, "I will not pray the Father for you, for the Father himself loveth you." When conscious of our unfaithfulness to higher aims, and yet craving the freedom of a larger life, it is His Spirit that streams into our hearts, to clear our inward vision, and to set us in the power of Thy redemption. Let Jesus Christ be born anew in our hearts, and then we will be drawn to Thee with the cords of a man, with the bands of love, and henceforth we will run in the way of Thy commandments, counting none of them grievous.

We pray for those who love us, and for those who, it may be, dislike us. Take from us any evil

thing that hinders the flow of love from soul to soul. Pour upon us the spirit of brotherhood, in the strength of which we may bear each other's burdens, and cover with a mantle of charity our brother's weakness. If any are estranged from us, do Thou pluck out of their hearts and ours any root of bitterness, and unite us again in the bonds of mutual affection. If any are irritable, or weak, or nervous, give us a spirit of unwearied forbearance, that we may be to them a source of strength and poise and self-control. As we go among our fellows, may we ever manifest a patient temper, a kind and happy spirit, a love that beareth all things, endureth all things, believeth all things. These blessings we ask in the name of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

VII

MOST merciful God, Power of our souls, Healer of our diseases, unto Thee would we come. Amid the haste and hurry of common life Thou seemest to pass away. Amid the cares and anxieties and all the turmoil of our inner mind we cannot hear Thee knocking at the door, seeking to enter and to bless. But now would we quiet our souls before Thee; now would we feel ourselves enwrapped with Thy unspeakable presence, and know Thee as the joy and strength of life. Quicken Thou our faith and hope and aspiration, that we may be upborne above all unrest and irritation, and be made sharers in Thy perfect calm. Lengthen these moments of prayer, we

beseech Thee, until our whole life becomes a continual aspiration after Thee.

Father of all mercies! God of all comfort! we bring before Thee the record of our lives, stained with the memories of sin and failure. Be patient with us, for if Thou turn Thy face from us, we are lost. Cast us not from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from us. Call us back to the right and holy path, Thou Shepherd of our souls. Place upon us once more Thy blessed yoke; set us face to face with our unaccomplished tasks, and we will prove our penitence by the constancy of our wills in the strength of Thy forgiving grace. Give unto us what Thou commandest, and then command what Thou wilt.

Here would we remember be-

fore Thee the wants and sorrows of our fellows. Have mercy, we entreat Thee, upon any who are entangled in earthly things, who it may be, have given up all hope of the higher life. Leave them not to themselves, but waken them to the vanity of all that is temporal, that they may find satisfaction only in the things that are eternal. Be present with Thy help to the tempted. By some sweet memory or dear affection reinforce the powers of the soul, that the mind may think only of what is fair and lovely and of good report, and the will resist to the uttermost the assaults of wrong. Unto those, O God, who feel the pain and darkness and mystery of life, let the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings. Remember in

pity, the sick, the distressed of body or of mind. Many and great are the disorders of our mortal nature, but Thy medicines are mightier. Open the souls of all who lie in beds of weariness to the inflow of Thy Divine Life. In the silence may they hear Thy voice saying, "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears, behold, I will heal thee." For the burden-bearers, the tempest-tossed, the afflicted and not comforted, we pray. Thy consolations are greater than all the sorrows of the world. Bind up the broken-hearted, and with Thy touch heal those wounds of the soul that bleed and will not cease. Give a spirit of endurance and of trust to those whose thorn in the flesh must remain. Save them from despair, from the indifference of a

heart without faith, and perfect Thy strength in their weakness. Comfort all men everywhere with Thy light, and guide them by Thy Spirit, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

VIII

ETERNAL God, lead us into the blessedness of the mystery of communion with Thee. Bow our spirits in deepest reverence before Thee, yet uplift us into a sense of kinship. Send the spirit of Thy Son into our hearts, crying "Abba, Father," that all unworthy fear may be banished by the gladness of Thy perfect love. Thy love is like the luminous heaven, receiving only to purify the foulest breath of earth. Thy gentleness is like the sun, seeking to cheer and warm the chilled hearts of men. Touch us, O our Father, with a feeling of Thy great realities, for though our thought about Thee is better than our words, our experience of Thee is better than our thought.

Bestow upon us, we beseech Thee, the grace for which we severally crave. Troubles overwhelm the heart: lead us to the rock that is higher than we. Doubts assail us. Give us a supreme trust that will not let Thee go, until the day break and the shadows flee away. We are unstable, easily moved by external circumstance. Strengthen us that we may play the man, and in Thy might grant us to gain dominion over the world. Our hearts are sad, thinking, as we do, of dear ones, so tenderly loved, but now taken from us, or of living griefs that will not heal. Wipe Thou our tears away. O God of hope! save us from despair. Thou bringest the dead out of the living and the living out of the dead. Come and work

Thy wonders in the hearts of those who grieve and wound us and cause us to drink of bitter tears, that sorrow may flee away and our mouth be filled with laughter and our tongue with singing.

We entreat Thee, O Lord, to remember us in our daily work. Let us do it heartily, as unto Thee, and not as unto men. Grant that our tasks may be congenial to us; that we may give ourselves wholly to them. Consecrate all our powers of body and mind to Thy service. Give us enthusiasm, a fervent spirit, a cheerful, hopeful temper, so that we may do our work with ease and self control, not with idle worry, or fruitless fear. Let us not think too much of our rights, but always of our duties, and when we have done

all, then let us say, "We are unprofitable servants." And when Thou drawest the curtain of night upon our labour, give us the sweet gift of sleep. All this we ask for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

IX

O LORD, our God, we desire to feel Thee near us in spirit and in body at this time. We know that in Thee we live and move and have our being, but we are cast down and easily disquieted, and we wander in many a sad wilderness where we lose the conscious experience of Thy presence. Yet the deepest yearning of our hearts is unto Thee. As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so pant our souls after Thee, O God. Nothing less than Thyself can still the hunger, or quench the thirst with which Thou hast inspired us. Power of our souls! enter Thou into them and fit them for Thyself, making them pure with Christ's purity, loving and lovable with His love.

As we feel Thy presence we know we are not what we ought to be. Help us to bring into the clear light of the mind whatever evil lurks within, that the conscience may be aroused to lift up its voice and spare not. Pardon the sins of the inner life. Forgive the unbelief that is ever loosening our hold upon Thy supreme realities; the shortsightedness that ever stays our vision upon things temporal and material; the pride of spirit or of intellect that wars against all loveliness and grace; the coldness of heart that never melts into humility, and is never warmed into self-sacrifice. O God, pity us. Leave us not to our loveless, lifeless ways. Let the chaff within us be blown away by the breath of Thy judgment, and let the wheat

be garnered by the varied ministries of Thy grace! Let our dreary wastes blossom once more, and let our wilderness be as the garden of the Lord!

In the multitude of our own wants, we would not forget the wants of others. Look upon those who especially need Thy comfort. Be present in Thy consoling pity with those who grieve because death has robbed them of loved ones, who weep for a sunshine that never returns. Let them realise that the realms of death and life alike are Thine. Solace all that mourn with a grief that saps the mind and breaks the heart, and grant them to believe that though weeping may endure for a night, joy cometh in the morning. For those who are anxious and overstrained, laden with burdens which are not

of Thy sending, we beseech Thy heavenly benediction. Give them freedom of heart, peace of conscience, the rest of lying still in Thy hands, the joy of surrendering all their cares to Thee, who carest for every creature Thou hast made. Whatever be the need or the desire, do Thou supply it according to the riches of Thy grace in glory by Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

X

O GOD, Thou hast found us, and not we Thee. At times we but dimly discern Thee; the dismal mists of earth obscure Thy glory. Yet in other and more blessed moments, Thou dost rise upon our souls, and we know Thee as the Light of all our seeing, the Life of all that is not dead within us, the Bringer of health and cure, the Revealer of peace and truth. We will not doubt our better moments, for in them Thou dost speak to us. We rejoice that Thou hast created us in Thine image. Thy Love has stirred us into being, has endowed us with spiritual substance. In the intellect, whose thoughts wander through eternity; in the conscience that bears witness to

Thy eternal righteousness; in the affections that make life sweet, and reach forth to Thee, O Lover of Mankind — in these, we are made heirs to the riches of Thy grace. And when we wandered from Thee into the far country, and there wasted our substance, Thou didst not forsake us. Thy love followed after us and would not let us go, and compelled us to return. We praise Thee that in the advent of Thy dear Son, all that Thou art has become visible to faith. His passion has become our deliverance, His wounds our healing, His Cross our redemption, His death our life. Make us one with Him in faith and penitence, that as He died, so we may die unto sin, that as He rose again triumphant over wrong and shame and

despair, so we may rise with Him into newness of life.

Our Father be with us, we pray Thee, not only in the great moments of experience, but also in the trivial round, the common task. Make us children of quietness and heirs of peace. Grant that we may go among our fellows with cheerful, kindly faces, ever lenient to their faults, ever glad to praise their virtues. Help us to control our tempers, and to be kindly affectioned one towards another. Wherever we see need or distress, may we be ready to help, counting it our joy to bear another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Save us from all selfish pleasure and slothful ease and idle curiosity. Keep us ever mindful of the fewness of our days, and the greatness of

Thy work. As our day is, so let our strength be. And let Thy favour be upon us; establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

XI

O GOD, who art unsearchable in Thy judgments, and in Thy ways past finding out, we bow before the mystery of Thy Being, and confess that we know nothing, and can say nothing worthy of Thee. We cannot understand Thy dealings with us. We have faith, not sight; when we cannot see, we may only believe. Sometimes Thou seemest to have no mercy upon us. Thou dost pierce us through our most tender affections, quenching the light of our eyes in dreadful darkness. Death tears from us all that we love, and Thou art seemingly deaf to all our cries. Our earthly circumstances are reversed and bitter poverty is appointed us, yet Thou takest no heed, and bringest no

comfort to the sorrow and the barrenness of our life. Still would we trust in Thee and cling to that deepest of our instincts which tells us that we come from Thee and return to Thee. Be with us, Father of Mercies, in love and pity and tenderness unspeakable. Lift our souls into Thy perfect calm, where all our griefs are put to rest, and our wills are in harmony with Thine.

O Lord, remember each one of us in our need. Thou wilt not forget our dear ones who are sick. Many whom Thou lovest are ill in body or in mind. Heal them, we entreat Thee; and grant that after they have been afflicted, they may be comforted, and taste of those deeper joys that are purchased only with pain. Graciously bless our children. Lay Thy hand

upon them, and grant that through the coming years, in joy or in sorrow, in health or in sickness, in all the changes of their life, they may live under Thine eye and in Thy strength, and rise into the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Be gracious to those who bear responsibility, the toilers who win bread for wife and child. Let them not be crushed by the burdens which they have to carry. Sweeten every task; lighten every load with a sense of duty done, of love's command obeyed. Remember the aged. Smooth their declining steps. Help them to bear the infirmities of the years. Make the old man young again in spirit, that he may have a foretaste of the eternal youth of Heaven.

Immortal Father! the years are fast passing. Even as a va-

pour, our little life vanisheth away. O spare us that we may do some work for Thy sake alone! Let us not pass hence until, if it may be, through us a sinner shall be converted from the error of his ways, or an ignorant soul instructed, or a grief-stricken heart consoled and strengthened, or an outcast brought into the home and fellowship of the children of God. Our being is a great mystery, set between two eternities, and search we ever so deeply we can not know the meaning. We believe that life is ours in order that it may be the channel for Thy saving and recreating power; that our wills are ours in order that they may be made Thine. Let the dead past bury its dead. For the time that remains, consecrate us to the service of the living, and

draw us to the spirit of Him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. These petitions we make in His name. *Amen.*

XII

ALMIGHTY Father, teach us by Thy Spirit how to pray, for indeed we know not how to pray as we ought. Give us the desire to speak with Thee, and then let us hear Thee speak with us. Thy goodness and loving kindness have followed us day by day. Thy mercies have been so common that we have dared to deem them commonplace. Give us the spiritual sight, quick to discern Thy hand and recognise Thy bounty. From Thee alone come life and strength, food and raiment, books and friends, work and rest. Thou givest us these to train us for the better and the more abiding joys. Let us not repine when Thou takest them from us, but let us rejoice that in Thee our loss turns

to infinite gain. Amid the changes of life, O Lord, keep us steadfast and loyal to the service of Thy will. Let no storm disturb the deep things of our quietness. Let no trial shake the foundations of our faith. Establish us in the assurance that though all else perish, Thy truth and righteousness are eternal; that though we faint and fail, Thou failest never. Thine unchangeableness rebukes our fickleness; Thine abiding patience, our want of self-control.

Grant us, O heavenly Father, perfect remission and forgiveness for all our wasted hours. Too often have we proved recreant in the fight against evil and put to sleep the cries of conscience. We have chosen selfish ease, or mean ambitions, or unholy pleasures, and have said, "These be our

gods!" And then have we become the bond-servants of sin. Have mercy upon us and free us from those habits of thought and feeling which the years have engraven upon us. Subdue the waywardness of our hearts to the meekness of Christ. Let Him enter anew into our souls, and be formed in us, that every evil habit may fall from off us, and that we may put on the virtues and graces of the Christian life. Let our days be bound each to each in the bonds of spiritual piety. If Thou shouldst call us to bear pain or sorrow, give us patience that we may win from it its hidden blessing. And to this end grant that we may not speak too much about our griefs, nor let them prey upon our hearts, but commit them all to Thee, casting

all our care upon Thee, because Thou carest for us. Shouldst Thou summon us to some great act of sacrifice, steady the will, O Lord, and inspire the heart with great courage, and put within us the mind of Him who emptied Himself and took upon Him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. Teach us that it is better to give than to receive, better to lose our life than to save it. And so may we ever pass into Thy hand, and be dedicated to Thy service, which is perfect freedom. Hear us, in Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

XIII

O GOD of infinite mercy, who hast compassion upon all men and hatest nothing Thou hast made, we praise and magnify Thy glorious name for all the goodness Thou hast vouchsafed to us. Thou hast given us this wonderful life, with its strange secrets, its perplexing mysteries, its boundless aspirations, its limitless capacities for joy and sorrow. Thou hast sent us success and happiness; we have taken them as our due, and have scarce given Thee a thought. Thou hast permitted griefs and pains to befall us that Thou mightest draw us to Thyself; but we have murmured against the wholesome discipline, and have missed its saving message. Thou hast held up before us ideals of peace

and holiness — not engraven on awful tables of stone but revealed in the grace and beauty of the Man Christ Jesus — yet have we turned to lower levels and made compromise with the evil of the world. In Thy mercy, forgive us all that is past, and for the future bow our wills in obedience to Thine, that we may love Thee perfectly, and serve Thee faithfully.

Loving Father! though Thou countest the stars and bringest forth their host, yet dost Thou bind up the wounds of the sick and healest the broken-hearted. If to any of us Thou hast especially spoken words of comfort and of strength, we thank Thee. If Thou hast saved any from temptation, or answered the cry of a perplexed soul, or opened a way back to Heaven and holiness for some poor

prodigal child of Thine, we praise Thee. If Thou hast touched any heart with a special joy, or hast turned for any life the shadow of death into Thy morning, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory. By the memory of all the outgoings of thy compassion, we would vow ourselves afresh to Thee, and to the work Thou hast given us to do.

We pray for all men. We pray for those who cannot pray for themselves, who think of Thee only as a vague and puzzling image of the mind. Teach them how real, how gracious, how generous Thou art, the Source of life and light, without whom we were lost in death and darkness. We pray for the sick in the homes and hospitals of our land. Bless watched and watcher alike, that

to the watched may come, even amid bodily pain and trial, strength of mind, calm of soul, and to the watcher, the sympathy and tenderness that bring Thy message of hope. We ask for no miracle, no violation of the laws Thou hast ordained, but we seek that through Thy appointed channels Thou wouldest send forth Thy word and heal the afflicted, so that men might praise Thee for Thy loving kindness and for Thy wonderful works to the children of men. Each heart knows its own bitterness, but Thou knowest the bitterness of all hearts. Thou hast a healing balm for each hurt of the soul. Bring strength to the weary, relief to the nervous and the miserable, consolation to the disconsolate, and deliverance to those who sit in the shadow of

death, fast bound in misery and iron. Speak peace to the troubled conscience; strengthen the weak; confirm the strong; save the oppressed and him that hath no helper. And, by Thy mercy, bring us all by the paths of righteousness and the waters of comfort to Thine abode of rest and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

XIV

O GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, make us to feel Thy presence, as we would lift here a voice of penitence and prayer. We are not always conscious of Thy closeness to us. In the misery of bereavement, or the sadness of a wronged affection, or in the loneliness of depression which comes we know not how, and envelops the soul with thick clouds, we are forced to cry; "O that I knew where I might find him! Behold I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him!" But now would we see Thee in all the glory of Thine overflowing mercy; now would we know Thee as the inmost Treasure of our hearts, the never-failing Light in

the darkness and mystery of our little lives.

Father of mercies! We thank Thee for all that Thou art to us. We cannot understand the greatness of Thy grace that Thou shouldst rejoice in us and love to hold converse with us. We can only adore Thee and praise Thee for Thy goodness and Thy marvellous loving kindness. Thou art our King, and therefore the laws and ways of Thy Kingdom safeguard our happiness. Thou art our Shepherd, and dost lead us by the green pastures and the still waters of Thy grace. Thou art our Father, whose infinite tenderness bears all our sickness and carries all our sorrows. Thou art our Companion, therefore we will fear no evil, though we should walk through

the valley of the shadow of death.

Thy goodness leadeth us to repentance. We confess with shame that we have not been pure and true. Instead of overcoming evil, we have too often been overcome by it. We have forgotten the holy calling wherewith Thou hast called us, and turned back to the flesh-pots of the world. The powers of the unseen have been manifested around us, all the ineffable grace of the Godhead hath dwelt among us in the person of Thy Son Jesus Christ, — and we are still irresolute, still uncommitted to the perfect life, still unable to make the great resolve. O God, have pity upon us. Put within us a spirit of penitence and of faith, that the bands which bind us may melt away and nothing shall be impos-

sible unto us. Take from us the intolerable burden of conscious guilt, that we may step forth into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Crown us kings and priests unto Thee, our God, victorious over the discouragements that beset us, pledged to no ambition save that of loving Thee and of helping our brothers in sincerity and simplicity. Grant that we may commend our religion to others by our joyous demeanour, our courage under trials, our self-restraint under provocation, our patience under misfortune and disappointment. Thus may we, as far as in us lies, spread the knowledge of the good news of Thy Kingdom, and attract others into it with the glad invitation — "O sad and disconsolate, weary and heavy-laden ones, come ye, and let

us walk in the light of the Lord!" These blessings we beseech Thee to give us for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

XV

MERCIFUL Father! Thou delightest to answer our prayer. Take us at this time into communion with Thyself. Breathe into our hearts so that our human desires may be brought into harmony with Thy divine desire. Banish from us all pride, arrogance, and self-conceit; all insincerity and doubleness of mind or heart. Make us simple with the simplicity which is in Christ. May our desires, purged of all unworthiness, rise up before Thee as the incense, and, what Thou hast inspired within us, be pleased to accept and bless.

Set us free, O Lord, from the bonds of sense and outward things. Lift from off us the heavy weight of custom. May we no longer serve the traditions of men but obey

Thy commandments with glad and willing hearts. Sanctify our sorrows. Let them not dull our minds or narrow our hearts; but do Thou work through them Thy holy ends and call us by them to a deeper knowledge and a larger vision. When the difficulties of the day try us, take from us all weak lamenting and inspire us with Thy strength to grapple with them, and to win from them a deeper trust in Thee. Consecrate all our work and service. Inspire us with a spirit of devotion and patience. May we seek not our own glory but to do Thy pleasure and to bring forth some fruit which may be to the praise of Thy grace. Grant that we may throw aside all sloth and self-seeking and learn the blessedness of an eager and sacrificial life.

Bless us in our intercourse with our fellows. Quicken our hearts that we may be swift to hear our brother's cry from the pit of humiliation or of need. Give us the forgiving spirit, else how should we know ourselves forgiven by Thee? If any have wronged us, grant that we may bring to them Thy charity and win them to a better mind. If any are in disgrace or shame, outcasts from the world, make us Thy messengers of mercy, that we may share the pain, and by our love, which is also Thine, lead them back to Thy home and fellowship. May we be to all men Thy revealers and interpreters, bearing Thy appeal to the sinning, the sorrowful and the despairing. And this we would be and do, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

XVI

O THOU, who hast created all things, and for whose glory they are and were created! We thank thee for the beauty of This world, for the glory of leaf and flower, for the majesty and mystery of the stars, for the singing of the birds, for the splendours of dawn and sunset, for the ever-changing wonders of summer and winter. Through these symbols of Thee grant that we may rise to Thee and be possessed by Thee. Glorious as are Thy manifestations in Nature, Thou art Thyself more glorious by far. Thy greatness none can comprehend; Thy purity makes the Heavens unclean; Thy power in Nature, as in spirit, reaches beyond our utmost imaginings. Awe us by Thy holiness,

subdue us by Thy majesty, yet, in the tenderness of Thy grace, cause us to stand before Thee confident and unashamed. And then, O Lord, when we hear Thy voice saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" our hearts will make reply, "Here are we, Lord, send us." In Thy mercy, deliver us from egotism and self-centred thought, by the power of a great pity for the poor and needy, for Thy children everywhere who long to be understood, and who crave in the darkness for a brother's hand. Bow our wills to the law of sacrifice, so that we may share the burdens of others and freely yield of what we have received. Enable us to see good in every man, and to search for it earnestly. Henceforth may we know no man after the flesh, but

after the spirit; may we judge no man by his weak or vicious moments, but by the best that is in him, by the deepest desires that here find no true fulfilment.

Give us simplicity and directness in all our dealings with our fellows. Fill us with a horror of all meanness and hard-heartedness. May the appeal of wretchedness never knock at our hearts in vain, nor the cry of the wronged or oppressed be powerless to rouse us to righteous indignation. Awaken us from our spiritual slumbers and teach us the holy joy of service in Thy name. Reveal to us the glory of our vocation, the glory of battling with wrong, of helping the weak, of blessing the sinful, of shaping a character that cannot die. Banish from our hearts all despair and doubt and hesitation,

and send us forth into the sunshine cleansed and purified and gladdened. May we radiate Thy love alike to the good and the bad, the just and the unjust. We ascribe unto Thee all praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

XVII

LOVING Father, our hearts are moved to gratitude and trust when we look up to Thee. We rejoice that through our fleeting days there runs Thy gracious purpose. We praise Thee that we are not the creatures of chance, nor the victims of iron fate, but that out from Thee we have come and into Thy bosom we shall return. We would not, even if we could, escape Thee. Thou alone art good, and to escape from Thee is to fall into infinite evil. Thy hand is upon us moving us on to some far-off spiritual event, where the meaning and the mystery of life shall be made plain and Thy glory shall be revealed. Look in pity upon our ignorance and childishness. Forgive us our small understand-

ing of Thy purpose of good concerning us. Be not angry with us, but draw us from the things of this world which cannot satisfy our foolish hearts. Fill us with Thyself, that we may no longer be a burden to ourselves. So glorify the face of goodness that evil shall have no more dominion over us.

The strength of Thy love, O Lord, we would have all men share. Let it go forth to all who feel themselves neglected, or despised, or forgotten. Be Thou their great Companion, who understands all, whose sympathy is wider and deeper than all their need. Look in compassion upon the bereaved and broken-hearted. Help them to take up afresh the duties of life with a deeper devotion to Thee, that so they may pass into that world of experience, where sorrow

alone can lead the way. Lift them above themselves so that their tears may bring forth fruit in tender ministry to those afflicted with like suffering, that they may comfort others with the comfort wherewith they themselves are comforted by Thee. For those who despair because of moral weakness and failure, we pray. May they throw themselves on Thy truth and mercy, and hear Thy voice of power and reassurance, "Be still and know that I am thy God, thy salvation." Let the doubter see his doubts dissolve away in the vision of Thyself. Let the restless and discontented pass into Thy peace, which the world cannot give and cannot take away. Let the miserable and ill at ease, the fretful and the careworn, come forth from their cabined

world into the larger places of Thy blessedness and Thy rest.

O God, Thou hast been our fathers' God. They trusted in Thee, and were not ashamed. Be our God and our Fortress, even unto death, for Thy mercies' sake. *Amen.*

XVIII

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, hear our prayers; and, when Thou hearest, forgive their weakness, bless their intention, deepen their feeling, and make them sincere. Thou hast a fire which can consume our impure thoughts, which can make of our poor sacrifice a sweet incense wherein Thou wilt delight. Touch our lips, we beseech Thee, with a live coal from off Thine altar, and say unto us, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away and thy sin forgiven." And then may we speak to Thee with the freedom of children who would open their inmost hearts to the Father's kindness and tender pity.

Gracious Father! Thou hast

committed unto us varied tasks. To some it is given to command; to others, to obey. On some Thou hast bestowed riches; others Thou hast set in poverty. Some live in perpetual sunshine, surrounded by honour, love and friends; others there are whose days are spent in gloom, knowing but little of the joy Thou hast put at the heart of life. We are all alike responsible to Thee. From each Thou shalt demand strict account of his stewardship. We faint when we think of this. The burden grows upon us until it seems as though it were too heavy to be borne. O great Taskmaster, pardon our wasted past, and for the future give us Thy strength that we may never shrink before any duty, however hard, or play the coward in any conflict, however

bitter to flesh and blood. So much remains to be done, and life is so short, and the years so fleeting. Our time, which is but a moment in Thy eternity, Thou hast crowded with mystic experiences and glorious opportunities. Grant that we may pass by the shadows of earth, and build upon the great realities of truth and love and righteousness. To this end send forth Thy Spirit into our hearts, to counsel us in perplexity, to shield us in spiritual danger, to inspire our wills to do Thy work. Leave us not to ourselves, or to the forces of the world about us, but in the storm of passion, or in the stress of doubt, hide us in Thy pavilion until our day of trouble be overpast. Draw us nearer to Thy central peace, where vain desires and mean passions and empty

hopes are hushed to rest and we know that all is well. Comfort us with the hope of a happy awakening after life's fitful dream is over, and, when we awake, may we be satisfied with Thy likeness. And unto Thee we ascribe all praise and glory, now and ever. *Amen.*

XIX

O GOD, most holy and most gracious, never could we climb up to Thee by any ladder of our own making; therefore in pity Thou hast sent Thy Son into the world to show us the way to Thee. Thou hast set the glory of Thine omnipotence in Heaven and earth. And yet wert Thou only an infinitude of might, our hearts would faint within us. But now in Jesus Christ Thou hast veiled Thy power, hast come forth in the strength of Thy gentleness to live our life and die our death, that Thou mightest win us to sonship and eternal life. O God, we know not the meaning of Gethsemane and the Cross. If we seek to grasp it, too often we but darken counsel with words of ignorance. We can

only praise Thee for Thy grace, and lift up a cry of penitence and of trust.

Living Father! We thank Thee for our life with its unspeakable privilege and dread responsibility. Thou hast given it to us that through it may throb the mighty tide of Thy love, that in it may be revealed some aspect of Thy being and beauty. Thou hast beset us behind and before. Thou makest us to sorrow for our sins. Thou dost stir us with a divine discontent, and we forget the things that are behind and reach forth unto the things that are before. We rejoice that Thou hast set our life amid gracious opportunities, whereby Thou wouldst train us to truer vision and larger understanding of Thee and of ourselves. We bless Thee

for the Church as the school of virtue and godly living; for the sacred Scriptures that bring to us the story of Thy redeeming will; for all the wise and saintly men of the past and of the present; for the goodly fellowship of the prophets, and the noble army of the martyrs; for the great cloud of witnesses from whose faith and hope we would take courage in our struggles and trials. We rejoice to believe that Thou art always overruling trouble and temptation and sin and disappointment, and out of them art making stepping-stones to bring us nearer to Thee. Forbid that we should know Thy grace in vain. Rather may Thy goodness bind us anew to loyalty and to faith, and constrain us to a life separate from evil, made consecrate to goodness.

We would not be selfish in our prayers. We cannot come into Thy presence without bringing in our hearts the tears, the pain, the longing of our brothers. O God, our sympathy with them is but the broken reflection of Thine. Come Thou to the burdened, the wretched, the grief-stricken, those who have been made sad by others, and those who have brought sadness upon themselves. May they hear, by faith, the still voice of Thy sympathy! May they feel the beating of Thy great heart of compassion! May they take comfort in the assurance that Thou dost suffer in and with them, and yet abidest in everlasting blessedness! Hear our prayers in behalf of all those who are struggling against the power of evil. Have pity upon the drunkard. Restore

to him the power of self-control. Enable him to obey the behests of reason and conscience. Lay Thy healing and soothing hand upon the victims of nervous tension, of sleepless nights, and fruitless days. Give them rest of soul that the body, too, may be at rest. Relieve those who are in pain. Grant them patience and courage, and let them not doubt Thy goodness or love. Call the sinning and the suffering into fellowship with Christ that they may find in Him the secret of victory over the evil of the world; that He may rise in their souls, a star burning brightly through the long night unto Thy perfect day. These blessings we beg, in His name, and for His sake. *Amen.*

XX

O LORD, we would rest in Thee, for in Thee alone is true rest to be found. We would forget our disappointed hopes, our fruitless efforts, our trivial aims, and lean on Thee, our Comfort and our Strength. When the order of this world bears cruelly upon us; when Nature seems to us an awful machine, grinding out life and death, without a reason or a purpose; when our hopes perish in the grave where we lay to rest our loved dead: O what can we do but turn to Thee, whose law underlieth all, and whose love, we trust, is the end of all? Thou fillest all things with Thy presence, and dost press close to our souls. Still every passion, rebuke every doubt, strengthen every element

of good within us, that nothing may hinder the outflow of Thy life and power. In Thee, let the weak be full of might, and let the strong renew their strength. In Thee, let the tempted find succour, the sorrowing consolation, and the lonely and the neglected their Supreme friend, their faithful Companion.

O Lord, we are weary of our old, barren selves. Separate us from our spiritual past, and quicken within us the seeds of a new future. Transform us by the breath of Thy regenerating power, that life may seem supremely beautiful and duty our highest privilege, and the only real evil a guilty conscience. Let us be no longer sad, or downcast, or miserable, or despairing, vexed by remorse, or depressed by our failures. Take

from us the old self. Give us a new self, beautiful, vigorous and joyous. Let old things pass away and let all things become new. Kindle within us a flame of heavenly devotion, so that to us work for Thee shall become a happiness, and rest in Thee shall become an energy, unchecked by fears within and foes without. Give us love, and then we shall have more than all we need, for Thou art Love, Thyself the Giver and the Gift.

Bless us in all our relations with our fellows. Grant that we may never add to the sin and sadness of the world, never add to the burdens that lie heavy on other souls, never offend one of Thy little ones, whose angels always behold Thy face. Save us from all pride and envy and jealousy,

from a bitter and uncharitable temper, from inconsiderate and selfish deeds. Enable us to give a smile instead of a frown; a cheerful, kindly word, instead of harshness and coldness. Let our dealings with all men, good and bad alike, be simple and according to the way of Christ. May we love the sinner, even while we condemn his sin. Forgive us that we have so often rejoiced at the misfortune of the transgressor, and grant that we may henceforth greatly pity him and gently turn his thoughts to goodness and to Thee. O God, these tasks seem hard to us, but with Thee all things are possible. Supply to us the strength that we need, according to the riches of Thy Grace in glory by Christ Jesus. *Amen.*

XXI

BLESSED art Thou, O God, who hast created and dost sustain us, out of whose fulness come blessing and goodness and happiness. Dwell in us as a power of love and of soundness. Heal the disorders of body and soul. Pluck from the memory the rooted sorrow and cleanse the overcharged heart from its misery and pain. Bring Thy peace to the troubled conscience. Quench the fires of evil within us and light a flame of holy love that may warm and purify our lives.

O God, our Father, as we look back upon our past lives, we realise that Thy hand hast guided us. Even in the desert places of our experience, Thou hast caused to break forth springs that have

made life glad. Thou hast bestowed upon us the riches of human love and tenderness, that our hearts might rise to Thee. Sorrow and troubles have come to us, but Thou hast turned them to our spiritual good, for through them the Heavens have been opened unto us and in the visions of the night we have seen Thy angels ascending and descending on a ladder of glory. Death has made our hearts desolate, but Thou hast wiped away our tears and hast begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Never again, O Lord, will we mistrust Thee, never again will we doubt Thy power or willingness to bless. Here and now we renounce our own vain guidance and take refuge in Thy

providential care. Whatever the future may have in store for us, whether our days be few or many, full of joy or of sorrow, of pleasure or of pain, we would hold fast by Thee, whom we see not, as though we saw Thee. "Whom have we in Heaven but Thee; and there is none upon the earth that we desire beside Thee. Our flesh and our hearts faint, but Thou art the Strength of our heart and our portion for ever." Henceforth we would have nothing, receive nothing, and be nothing but what Thou choosest. In the turmoil of the world, in the failure of lower hopes, we would remember that our deepest life is hid with Christ in Thee. O Christ, Thou Son of God and Son of Man, enter anew into our hearts. Move us to fresh ambition. Assure us of the

Father's love, and lead us into the wonder and the joy of His forgiving grace, and make us one with Him in every thought and purpose and desire. Dwell in us evermore, Thou Peace of God, earnest of the peace of eternity! We ask it in Thy name. *Amen.*

XXII

ALMIGHTY and ever-living God, we draw near unto Thee, believing that Thou art, and that Thou wilt reward all those who diligently seek Thee. We are weak, mortal men, immersed in this world's affairs, buffeted by its sorrows, flung to and fro by its conflicts of right and wrong. We cry for some abiding stay, for some sure and steadfast anchorage. Reveal Thyself to us as the eternal God, as the unfathomable Love that encompasses every spirit Thou hast made, and bears it on, through the light and the darkness alike, to the goal of Thine own perfection. And yet, when Thou speakest to us, we are covered with confusion, for now we remember all the sadness

and evil and disorder of our lives. Thou hast visited our hearts with ideals fair and beautiful, but alas! we have grown weary in aspiration, and have declined into the sordid aims of our baser selves. Thou hast given us the love of parent and of friend, that we might thereby learn something of Thine own love; yet too often have we despised Thy gift and shut our hearts to all the wonder and the glory. We make confession before Thee of our sin and folly and ignorance. Again and again we have vowed ourselves to Thy service; again and again our languid wills have failed to do Thy Will. We have been seduced by the sweet poison of sin, and even against light and knowledge we have done that which Thou dost abhor, and which in our secret

hearts we loathe. And now we almost fear to repent, lest Thou shouldst call us into judgment for a repentance that must needs be repented of. O mighty Saviour of men! be patient with us a little longer. Take us back to Thyself. Without Thee, we are undone; with Thee, we will take fresh heart of hope, and bind ourselves with a more effectual vow, and laying aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, we will follow Thee whithersoever Thou leadest.

Gracious Father, Thou hast invited us, unworthy as we are, to pray for all sorts and conditions of men. We pray for all those who say, "Why hast Thou forgotten me?" and who feel that they are neglected or despised by their fellows. Comfort them with a

sense of Thy presence and Thy favour. We pray for all who are in bondage to fear, unable to face the tasks of life or bear the thought of death with peace and dignity. Free them from the tyranny of these dark dreads. Let the inspiration of a great faith or hope seize their souls, and lift them above their fruitless worry and idle torments, into a region of joy and peace and blessedness. We pray for the victims of evil habits, the slaves of alcohol or morphine, or any other pretended redeemer of the soul from weariness and pain. Great is the power of these degrading temptations; but greater still is the saving energy of Thy Spirit. So let Thy Spirit enter the hearts of these unhappy children of Thine, that their will may be made strong to resist, and

that the burning heat of high thoughts may consume the grosser desires of the flesh. We pray for souls bound beneath self-imposed burdens, vexed by miseries of their own making; for the children of melancholy, who have lost their way and grope without a light; for those who do their work with no enthusiasm, and, when night falls, can find no sleep though they search for it as for hidden treasure. Let Thy light pierce through their gloom and shine upon their path. Say Thou the healing and the reconciling word, and then we know that self-possession will be theirs, and all the blessings of a mind at one with Thee and with itself. Help us all, we beseech Thee, to attempt once more to lead the perfect life. Unite us to Jesus Christ, Thy

perfect Son, in the bonds of a living trust, so that sustained by His example, and sanctified by His Spirit, we may grow more and more into the image of His likeness. These, and all other blessings, we ask in His name and for His sake. *Amen.*

XXIII

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, as we enter Thy presence, we are ashamed of our poor, sinful lives. We have been drawn away by evil from the holy path of Thy commandments. Doubt has dimmed our vision of Thy supreme realities. Pride has shut the doors of our souls against the entrance of Thy spirit. The clouds of faithless sorrow have hidden Thy face from us. The bitterness of disappointed hopes has shut us out from the healing sunshine of Thy presence. Outside the closed portals of our hearts Thou hast stood, in Jesus Christ, knocking, ah! how long, how patiently; but within, it may be, and forgetful of Thee, we have worshipped other gods, or served

our own imaginings, or loved too well our own ambitions. O Thou, with whom is plenteous forgiveness, waken us from our vain dreams and reveal to us the hidden treasures of life and blessedness. Henceforth may we not waste Thy precious gift of time, but use it well, that we may lay hold on eternal life, and work and watch and wait, as under Thine eyes, and in Thy strength. For the time that remains, help us to live as those who have been called to be Thy sons. Grant us the filial spirit of unfailing trust and glad obedience, so that the daily task, whether in the school of childhood, or in the wider discipline of riper years, may become a sacrament, a token of Thy grace. Lead us into the knowledge of Thyself, that we may be at peace. O Spirit of

holiness and grace! stay with us, to breathe into our souls new love after the shame of guilt, and new resolves after every failure. Hush every passion; heal every sorrow; help every infirmity, and quicken within us new faith and hope and trust. Save us from sin, save us from the darkness that is in us; from our evil ways, our meanness, our injustice, our foolishness, our pride; and work Thy commanded good through our frail wills.

We bear in our hearts all the sorrowing and unhappy among Thy children. Be gracious to those who are made sad by sins of others, who are vexed by the cruelty of those whom they love, yet cannot save. Let them know that Thou art strong to save, and give them a trust in Thee that will make their burdens light.

Remember in pity the anxious and care-laden, the victims of irritable weakness, of morbid fears, and unchastened impulses. Give peace to such distracted souls. Restore to unity and harmony the inner life, that mind and body may be attuned to Thy perfect laws. We pray for the bond-slaves of degrading habits; for the drunkard, that he may see the evil which his sin works in himself, and the pain it brings on others, and that this vision may make strong the will to resist. May the power of a new affection conquer the demons of base indulgence and set Thy children free. We pray Thee, O God, to have mercy upon any who have fallen by the roadside, sore bruised by the evil of the world. May we never pass by such, but be moved to compassion

and be to them as the Good Samaritan, after the example of Jesus Christ. Some there are who cannot pray to Thee, who only cry out against Thee as against some dreadful fate. Thou knowest the riddle of their lives. Thou canst interpret their experience. Speak Thou to them the word that illumines, and let Thy glory break through the darkness.

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and what in our ignorance we fail to ask, fail not Thou to give; and unto Thy name we give the glory, now and ever. *Amen.*

XXIV

ALL Thy works praise Thee, O Lord, and Thy saints give thanks unto Thee. On mountain and field and flower and sky Thou hast set Thy glory. The hearts of men and women and little children Thou hast filled with happiness. "The whole round world is bound with golden chains about Thy feet." O give us spirits attuned to the harmonies of Thy universe, that this day we may join in the swelling chorus of praise that ever magnifies Thy name. Lift us up into Thy joy, before which sorrow hides her face and pain and fear fly away.

We bless Thee for Thy self-revelation in Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Master. We have stood in His presence and

have heard Him say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." In Him Thou hast come among us, cleansing our soiled hearts, healing the wounds of body and of mind, giving rest to the troubled conscience, and opening the blind eyes to the beauty and brightness of the world. As we listen to His voice, grief becomes a scorn of ills and the weaknesses of life become our glory. As we look into His face we seek nothing but that we may love Him with all our hearts and serve Him with all our might. O Christ, Thou Son of God, let the Spirit which bore Thee to the Cross abide in us! Touch us with the glory of Thy Sonship, with the power of Thy surrendered life, that we, no longer the servants of the world, may become the sons of God!

Bless us, our Father, in all our work and in all the relations of life. Sanctify the life of the home. May its memories abide with us to strengthen us in the hour of temptation, to comfort us in the hour of sorrow. May children love and honour their parents, and may parents be tender and considerate with their children, knowing how delicate is the child-soul, and how easily harshness casts it down. Pour out a spirit of kindness and goodness in the home, that all the members of it may be bound each to each in bands of mutual love and service that may not be broken. Bless us in the larger world where we toil and suffer. We thank Thee for work and the opportunity to work. Grant that our labour may be congenial to us; that we

may do it with ease and a sense of mastery. Let us not be enslaved to our tasks, but may we feel ourselves greater than they, and ready for still nobler efforts. Save us from sullen discontent, from fruitless war with the circumstances of our lot. Make our hearts obedient, that by the untoward things of experience we may win a larger and a freer life. Give us the spiritual vision and a desire to pass beyond ourselves, to think of the needs of others, to make the world a little better than we found it. Put within us Christ's yearning for the redemption of the world. Kindle within us His passion for the souls of men. Uphold us with the faith that Thou hast called us into fellowship with Him, as Thy co-workers in the achievement of Thy purpose

of good. In this faith let us cheer the mourner, raise up the fallen, relieve the needy, forgive the wrongdoer, and praise the lover of simplicity and goodness. While we give to others, give Thou to us, that we may grow more and more in the spirit of helpfulness and generosity, both in word and deed; And unto Thy name we will ascribe praise and honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

XXV

WE come to Thee, O God, with words of thanksgiving on our lips. We thank Thee for Thy gifts. They are as varied as our needs, as manifold as our desires. Our hearts cry for love, and Thou hast given us the love of parent and of friend, that have been as Thy benediction on our lives. Our minds crave light and knowledge, and Thy Spirit has kindled a lamp within us. We long for the vision of beauty, and Thou hast revealed Thyself gloriously in the open page of Nature. May we take these gifts, not for their own sake only, but as steps with which to mount upward to Thee, who art the perfection of love and truth and beauty. Bathe us in Thy

re-creating life, that we may cast off all meanness, all despair, all sin and shame, and enter into the secret of Thy eternal gladness. Help us to turn our earthly blessings to ends divine.

We cannot fathom the mystery of Thy being, but we rejoice that Thou knowest us and the temptations that try us, and the sorrows that beat upon us and cast us down, and the pains of body and of mind that cloud our spirits and make sad our world. Leave us not as those who are fatherless and outcast, but bring to us Thy dawn, and shed light upon our path. When we are wounded with mental and physical distresses, be at hand to heal and save. When the cares and troubles of this life threaten to kill the soul, let Thy Spirit sustain us and

create for us an inner world of hope and faith and love, where we may take refuge and hear Thy voice speaking to us to warn, to comfort and to guide. Save us, O Lord, from the weakness of self-pity. In misery and suffering let us turn to Thy pity, which alone can strengthen, cleanse, and uplift. Let not failure or sorrow embitter us, or shut us off from those about us, but may we find a cure for our own griefs by pouring the oil of consolation and the wine of gladness into other lives. Grant us brave hearts and true. Inspire us with firmness to carry out every holy purpose. Forbid that we should waste the time that is left in vain regrets for the past, or vague dreams of the future, but let us be up and doing, knowing that though we may fall, thou wilt

not cast us away. May we gather up the fragments of time and opportunity which remain that nothing be lost. Grant that we may see Thee, not only in the thunder and tempest and earthquake, not only in the great moments of spiritual exaltation, but also in the commonplace duties, in the familiar relationships of life. May our home-life be glorified with the spirit of love and mutual helpfulness. Remove from our midst all wrath and clamour and evil-speaking, and bitterness and estrangement, and make us gentle and easily entreated, the children of a forgiving God. May we know, with a spiritual knowledge, that Thou art Love, and that dwelling in Love we dwell in Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

XXVI

O LIVING God, we thank Thee that Thou hast not left us to ourselves. Thou hast been our Teacher. All through the past we can trace Thy self-unveiling. Through law and sacrifice and prophecy Thou hast sought to keep alive within the minds of men the knowledge of Thyself. And in the fulness of time Thou didst send Thy Son, that in Him Thou mightest declare Thine inmost heart, Thy love, which triumphs over sin and pain and death. By the glory of Thy manifested life, let us rejoice in the sense of sins forgiven, in the assurance that one day the tangled skein of our lives shall be unravelled and their mystery made plain. In times past we

have not been willing to take all Thy love, nor enter into all Thy joy. We have often wandered from Thee into wastes wherein is no refreshment for our thirst, no rest for our weariness. But now we would be led by the green pastures and the still waters. Now we would lay aside our self-will, and freely surrender ourselves to the guiding of Thy hand. Allay our fears; quicken our better hopes; and so work in us that we may will what Thou willest, and because Thou willest it.

We cannot come into Thy presence without bringing with us all our brothers. Are we not all Thy children, and hast Thou not a purpose of good for us all? Give us a large and a nobler outlook. Give us more interest in each other, more zeal for each other's

happiness, more willingness to share each other's pain. Take from us all miserable aims that end in self. May we, in the power of Christ's spirit, help the weak and neglected; comfort the afflicted and sorrow-laden; and bring a sense of fellowship to those who are friendless and lonely. We pray for the advancement of Christ's cause and Kingdom. We believe that it is the cause of goodness and truth, of all that makes life worth living. Awake, O Most Mighty, and scatter the banded powers of evil that delay the coming of Thy Kingdom, the victory of the Crucified. May all the ills that work ruin in our social and civic life be banished from our midst. Cleanse our hearts and lips, that we may be made meet for Thy service,

mighty to the pulling down of strongholds, and to the building up of the City of God, wherein dwelleth righteousness. And this we ask, for Thy Name's sake. *Amen.*

XXVII

ETERNAL God, whom the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain, yet who makest Thine abode in humble and contrite hearts, here would we meet with Thee, and feel for a moment in our souls the greatness of Thy Power. Here would we know the dignity of life and learn Thy perfect law of liberty. Here would we rise to the height of Thy upward calling, and deem ourselves Thy sons and the heirs of immortality. We repent that we have despised our souls. When evil has made of us its prey, we have said, "These sins are not ours. They are a heritage of the past. Our fathers have sowed the wind; we reap the whirlwind." Thus have we sought to silence Thy

voice of rebuke. Reveal to us now the mystery of our greatness. Meet with each one of us alone. Fill each one of us with a sense of moral freedom, of personal worth, of our kinship with Thee. May we, in the strength of Thy visitation, rise up and shake off the bonds that bind us, and live henceforth as those whom Thou hast made a little lower than the angels, and crowned with glory and honour.

Gracious Father! We confess the painful riddle of our being, that, while claiming kinship with Thee, we feel far from Thee. O, what means this strange bewilderment, this never-ending war between our worse and better thoughts? We are Thine by right, yet we have not given ourselves wholly to Thy care. Our hearts

know no rest, save in Thee, yet they have sought it in this world's vainglory, which passeth away. We seek to quench our thirst at the cisterns of this earth, but they are broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Lead us to Thy well of life that springeth up eternally. Give us to drink of that spiritual water, of which, if any man drink, he shall never thirst again. We lament our want and poverty before Thee. Open Thou our eyes to behold the unsearchable riches of Thy grace, and increase our faith that we may make them ours. Unite us to Thee in the bonds of will and love and purpose. Out of Thy fulness, which is in Christ, give to each one of us according to his need. Make us wise with His wisdom; pure with His purity;

strong with His strength; that we may rise into the power and glory of the life that is life indeed. Hear our hearts' weak and wandering cries, and when Thou hearest, forgive and bless, for His sake. *Amen.*

XXVIII

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we adore Thee as the God of light and power. Shine through the clouds that dim our vision. Strengthen our weak hearts, that we may love Thee and serve Thee in freedom and gladness. This world, which Thou hast committed to us, is radiant with Thy presence. Go where we will, we cannot flee from Thy Spirit, that speaks to us in the calm and order and beauty of Nature. For in our souls Thou dwellest, and openest our eyes to read Thy thought in sun and star, in field and flower. We bless Thee that Nature does not exhaust the fulness of Thy being. We rejoice that, in the fight with temptation, we are not alone, for Thou art

our secret Helper. We praise Thee that in all our affliction Thou art afflicted, that in every sorrow or disappointment or failure Thou dost not give us over to our weak repining, but dost summon us to self-knowledge and to peace. O God, our life kindles beneath Thy touch. We know that Thou art ours when the conscience awakens us to long-neglected duties and the sad disorder of our souls; when repentance lays us in the dust and aspiration bears us, as with wings, above sin, despair and death. And such value hast Thou set upon us, that to make us Thine, Thou hast given us the Christ, the Anointed One. In Him we understand Thy purpose concerning us. In Him Thou hast bestowed upon us all we had not dared to hope for. He

has been made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. He is the fulfilment of our past, the prophecy of better things to come. He is the rock beneath our feet, the hope within our souls. O that He would enter into our hearts afresh! That He might become the life of all our thoughts and the inspiration of all our service!

Bless us now, O Lord, as we are gathered in Thy presence. Give us thankful hearts for Thy unwearied mercies; for a father's and a mother's love; for the friendships which gladden our days; for means of growth in knowledge and virtue; for work, and for the strength with which to do it. Take from us all foolish fears, all sinful discontent. Fill our hearts with the sunshine

of Thy love, so that we may give freely to all men of what we have and of what we are. These prayers we offer in Christ's name. *Amen.*

XXIX

O LORD, let Thy glory dwell among us, as here we would commune with Thee. Let us hear Thy voice of love, and let our hearts be filled with joy and peace. Help us to forget the noises of the outer world, and to enter into Thy silence, where is healing for every wound, help for every weakness, consolation for every sorrow.

We pray for the strong, that they may abide in Thee, and in Thee find renewal of their strength; for the weak and the tempted, that Thine arm may work out for them a great salvation; for the disconsolate, that in Thee their griefs may receive a noble consecration; for the bereaved, that they may have a vision of the world beyond, where there is no

more death, nor crying, nor mourning, nor pain. Bless the poor, the homeless, the neglected, and the ignorant. Inspire our hearts with Thy love, that we may be friends and companions to all Thy children who need us. Have pity on all who foolishly trust in the false promises of sin, and awaken them from their deluding dreams to timely repentance. Succour all who are fighting against the dominion of evil habits. If they fall, help them to rise again; and put within them a faith and hope that cannot be quenched. Inspire all harassed and struggling souls with the assurance that all the forces of Thy will are working for them, and are moving them on to peace and health and holiness. Visit in Thy compassion those who suffer pain, and who

watch with eager longing through the hours of darkness for the morning light. Thou hast strangely fashioned this body of ours. Along its nerves shoots a thrill of agony, and in a moment the world is overcast and there is no joy in the feast, nor comfort anywhere. Assuage the pain, we beseech Thee, or give the strength needed to bear it.

Gracious Father! Be near us, who must pass along the dim and perilous pathway of the years, and support us with Thy presence. Amid danger, sorrow, and disaster, lift up our eyes to Thy high resting-place. Help us to take home to our hearts the joyous inspiration that the untoward things of life enter into thy perfect work and achieve Thy majestic ends. Widen our outlook until our grief

or care shall be purged of the least taint of selfishness, and we shall feel ourselves one with the whole creation, which groans and travails, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

XXX

GRACIOUS Father! Thou hast revealed Thyself gloriously in Jesus Christ, the Son of Thy love. In Him we have found Thee, or rather, are found of Thee. By His life, by His words and deeds, by His trials and sufferings, we are cleansed from sin and rise into holiness. For in Him Thou hast made disclosure of Thine inmost being and art drawing us into fellowship with Thy life. As we stand beneath His Cross, or pass with Him into the Garden of His Agony, it is Thy heart that we see unveiled, it is the passion of Thy love yearning over the sinful, the wandering, seeking that it may save them. No man hath seen Thee at any time, but out from the unknown has come the Son of

Man to declare Thee. And now we know Thy name. When we call Thee Father, the mysteries of existence are not so terrible, our burdens weigh less heavily upon us, our sorrows are touched with joy. Thy Son has brought the comfort that we need, the comfort of knowing that in all our afflictions Thou art afflicted, that in Thy grief our lesser griefs are all contained. Let the light which shines in His face, shine into our hearts, to give us the knowledge of Thy glory, to scatter the darkness of fear, of wrong, of remorse, of foreboding, and to constrain our lives to finer issues of peace and power and spiritual service. And these prayers we offer in Christ's name. *Amen.*

Part Second

Intercessory and Personal Prayers

For a Person Who Cannot Pray

GRACIOUS Father, who givest the hunger of desire, and satisfiest our hunger with good things; quicken the heart of Thy servant who mourns because *he* cannot speak to Thee, nor hear Thee speak to *him*. Refresh, we beseech Thee, the dulness and dryness of *his* inner life. Grant *him* perseverance that *he* may never abandon the effort to pray, even though it brings for a time no comfort or joy. Enlarge *his* soul's desires that *he* may be drawn unto Thee. Send forth Thy Spirit into *his* heart to help *his* infirmities; to give *him* freedom of utterance, and warmth of feeling. Let *him* muse upon Thy goodness; upon the blessings with which Thou hast strewn *his* path; upon

the mystery of the world, and the shame of sin, and the sadness of death, — until the fire kindles and the heart melts in prayer and praise and supplication.

Lord, teach *him* to pray the prayer that relieves the burdened spirit, and brings Thy blessing, which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow. Hear us, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

For a Person Who Desires Faith

O THOU, who givest liberally unto all men and upbraidest not, give to this, Thy servant, the desire of *his* heart. Thou knowest *his* inward and outward state. Whatever it be that holds *him* back from self-surrender unto Thee, grant that it may be taken out of the way, that there may be a free and open intercourse between *him* and Thee. May *he* be willing to trust where *he* cannot prove; willing to believe *his* better moments in spite of all that contradicts them. Open *his* eyes to see Thee as Thou art, infinitely real, infinitely gracious, infinitely good. Speak to *him* in the daily witness of earth and sky; in the goodness and tender mercy of

human hearts; above all, in the words and works of Thy perfect Son in whom Thou hast spoken the "everlasting yea" that puts to flight our every care. Take from *him* all dread of evils that may never happen. Grant *him* the victory over every besetting doubt; and patience while any darkness remains, that *he* may glorify Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Person Troubled with Evil Thoughts

MOST Merciful Father, who orderest the wills and affections of men; inspire in the heart of this Thy servant holy wishes and aspirations, that all base imaginings and sinful broodings may be cast out. Spirit of purity and grace, cleanse the thoughts of *his* heart and bring *his* whole being into captivity to the law of Christ. So direct and control *his* mind that *he* may ever think on whatsoever things are true and pure and lovely. Let no corrupt thought get dominion over *him*. Enter Thou into the house of *his* soul. Enlarge and renew it and consecrate it to Thyself, that *he* may love Thee with all *his* mind and serve Thee with

all *his* might. Free *him* from the fascinations of false pleasures and the allurements of debasing desires. Fill *his* eyes with the eternal beauty of goodness, that vice and sin may appear as they really are, the last shame and despair of life. Keep *him* outwardly in *his* body and inwardly in *his* soul, and constrain *him* to reverential obedience to the laws Thou hast ordained for both. Sustain him in health of body that *he* may the better control the motions of thought, and repel the assaults of passion. We ask it for Thy Son our Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

For a Victim of Fear

O THOU, who art the ever-blessed God, the underlying Peace of the world, and who wouldst draw all men into the companionship of Thy joy; speak, we beseech Thee, to this Thy servant, for whom we pray. Take *him* by the hand and say unto *him*, "Fear not; for I am with thee. I have called thee by my name; thou art mine." Put such a spirit of trust within *him* that all fear and foreboding shall be cast out, and that right reason and calm assurance may rule *his* thoughts and impulses. Let quietness and confidence be *his* strength. Reveal to *him* the vision of a universe guided and governed by Thy wise and loving care; and show *him* that around and about *him* are Thy

unseen and beneficent powers. Lift up *his* whole being into communion with Thy life and thought. Let *him* ever remember that Thou dost not give to any a spirit of fearfulness, but a spirit of power and love and self-mastery. In this faith, grant, O Lord, that *he* may summon the energies of *his* soul against the miseries that cast him down. Give *him* courage, confidence, an untroubled heart, and a love that loves all creatures, great and small, for Thy love's sake. *Amen.*

For a Victim of Worry

EVER Blessed God, whose word is, "Peace, peace to him that is far off and to him that is near", fulfil Thy promise to this Thy servant for whom we pray. Rescue *him* from the misery of groundless fears and restless anxieties. Take *him* more and more out of *himself*, that duty may be no longer a drudgery but a delight. Lead *him* into the secret of Thy peace which quiets every misgiving and fills the heart with joy and confidence. Save *him* from the shame and emptiness of a hurried life. Grant *him* to possess *his* soul in patience. Amid the storms and stress of life, let *him* hear a deeper voice assuring *him* that Thou livest and that all is well. Strengthen *him* to do *his* daily work in quietness and

confidence, fearing no to-morrow, nor the evil that it brings, for Thou art with *him*. And this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For a Person Suffering from Neurasthenia

ALMIGHTY and All-loving God, who giveth power to the faint and increaseth strength to him that hath no might; visit in mercy this Thy servant, sunken in deep depression, and made to possess days and nights of misery. Thou knowest this frame of ours, which Thou hast so fearfully and wonderfully made; how its wounds and bruises hurt and weaken the powers of the soul. Out of the depths of weariness and pain and apprehension, Thy servant lifts a cry to Thee for help. Hasten to *his* succour, O Lord. Turn *his* eyes from *his* disordered life to Thee, the source of all order and peace in the universe. Make *him* to feel that Thou art Soul of *his*

soul. Open *his* heart that Thy healing forces may find free access and may restore to unity and soundness all the functions of brain and soul. Let a consciousness of Thy love cast out all fear; let a sense of Thy reality and nearness put to flight the spectres of the mind; let the still small voice of Thy Spirit conquer the voices of distrust and self-despair with the glad conviction that out of weakness Thou canst make strong, that underneath and around *him* are the everlasting arms of Thy compassion. Forgive the sins of the past. Reveal to *him* the vision of a new future; of a life made free and strong and beautiful in the glory of Thy grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Person Suffering from Insomnia

O THOU, who keepest the night-watches of the world; have compassion on this Thy servant, who seeks rest and cannot find it. Thou, the Unsleeping One, givest sleep to all Thy creatures. Wherefore we entreat Thee for Thy servant that *he* may rejoice in the sweet oblivion wherein Thy healing forces abide. Thou seest *his* sad state of body and of mind. When it is evening, *he* cries, "Would God it were morning!" and when the morning comes, *he* has no pleasure in it. Temper to *him* the hours of wakefulness by soothing memories and thoughts of dear ones, and thanksgivings for all the good things thou hast bestowed upon *him*.

May *he* feel *his* past, *his* present, and *his* future alike beset by Thy faithfulness which is good and Thy compassions that fail not. Let no worry harass *his* mind. Let no fear disturb *his* heart. Give *him* to feel that Thou canst transform the blunders of the vanished years and make them ministers of good. O divine and holy Peace! enter *his* soul that no shadows from out the past and no presentiments of ill in the future may frighten sleep away! But gently steep *his* senses in unconsciousness, and give *him* to know the blessedness of that ancient word, "He giveth His beloved sleep." And we will praise Thee now and ever through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Person Suffering from Depression

O GOD, Almighty and All-good, have pity upon this Thy afflicted servant, who from the depths of sadness would lift a cry to Thee. Restore to *him*, we pray Thee, the joy of life. Be Thou the strength of *his* heart, the Light in *his* gloom, and the Lifter up of his head. Inspire *him* with new courage to throw off the thoughts that oppress; to bear with patience the trial of *his* faith. Grant *him* prudence and understanding that *he* may avoid those outward things that cast *him* down; and instead may cherish every good and hopeful inspiration and receive comfort from those who rejoice and are strong. Make *him* glad with the assurance that though

the night cometh, the morning cometh also. Let Thy blessing accompany the means appointed for *his* help. Deliver *him* out of prison that *he* may praise Thy name, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For a Person Threatened with Insanity

LIGHT of our light, eternal Reason in whom our finite minds exist, and in whose creative powers they share; visit in mercy this Thy servant, who now stands under the shadow of a great calamity. We are mysteries to ourselves and know not the secrets of our mental life; but Thou art acquainted with all our ways and understandest our thought afar off. The inmost ground of our being is well-known to Thee, for Thou dwellest in us, Soul of our souls. Through hidden and marvellous ways, known only to Thee, Thou canst bring help to the distracted spirit, unity and control to the disordered imagination. Pierce Thou the gloom

with Thy light; and let the beam in darkness grow until all the energies of mind shall be restored to their normal exercise. Turn aside the threatened ill, we beseech Thee, and let not Thy servant sink into the pit of despair. Show him some token for good that he may take fresh hope and rouse the forces of order and sanity against every thing that vexes or disturbs. Answer us for Thy mercy's sake. *Amen.*

For a Person Striving to Overcome the Alcohol Habit

O GOD, most mighty and most compassionate, hear our prayers in behalf of this Thy servant, who is making the first trembling efforts to conquer the demon that has so long held *him* in servitude. We rejoice that Thou hast inspired *him* to rise in Thy strength against this evil power. Help *him* to stand, and should he fall, grant that *he* may not be discouraged, but rather that *he* may strengthen the weak places of *his* character, and gird *himself* anew for the conflict. Thou knowest the force and subtlety of the temptation; how it comes in the most alluring guise; how it promises freedom from care and exaltation above the stings and arrows of the world;

how it curses and degrades its victim and works woe and shame to all who love him. Have pity, O Lord, upon *him* for whom we pray. Bless the means, medical and moral, that are being used for his recovery. Surround him with earnest and hopeful friends who may encourage and sustain him in his hours of weakness. Kindle in his heart the fire of some noble ambition, some spiritual desire that may burn up all base appetite, all craving for an unworthy self-indulgence. It is not meet that Thy child should be held bound by this evil thing. Break the fetters that enchain *him*, and set *him* free to serve Thee with a right and quiet mind. And we will give Thee all the praise now and ever. *Amen.*

For the Insane

MOST gracious God, who enviest the good of none of Thy creatures and forsakest nothing Thou hast made; we plead before Thee the cause of those whose light has become darkness, whose souls wander in waste places, seeking rest and finding none. "Even the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day." Thou seest the affliction of Thy children; Thou knowest its beginning and its end and all its sadness. Have pity upon all who are bearing the sins of those who have gone before. Thy laws change not from age to age; yet we believe that Thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting and rejoices against judgment. Let Thy love comfort the

innocent who cry in their anguish and "with no language but a cry." Graciously help those who by sin and folly have brought harm upon themselves. Let the glory of Thy compassion shine through the gloom to give hope to the despairing, courage to the downcast, peace to the restless and ill at ease.

We bless Thee for Thy servants, the physicians who seek to heal the troubles of the mind. We thank Thee for the newer knowledge and the finer skill with which Thy Spirit has inspired them. Lead them still more deeply into the secrets of our common nature, and crown their every effort with success. Pour out upon us all the spirit of the Son of Man, the spirit that yearns to restore to human fellowship all who have

fallen by the way. Hear our prayer, and help us not only to pray but to work in Thy name and to Thy glory, now and ever. *Amen.*

For a Person Haunted with the Fear of Committing Suicide

MOST merciful God, unto whom all hearts are open and from whom no secret is hid; look in pity upon this unhappy child of Thine, in whose heart a secret fear takes the joy from life. O Thou who hast made *him* a living soul, sustain within *him* such a faith as shall cast out all fear. Open *his* eyes to the beauty and the glory of the world. Reveal to *him* the sacred opportunities of service. Grant *him* to behold the embrace of Thy love, holding *him* up and keeping *him* safe. Help *him* to throw *himself* upon Thine everlasting strength. Fill *him* with courage and new hope that *he* may tread

down this fear. Deepen within *him* the consciousness of Thine indwelling presence, the assurance that Thou art always with *him* to keep back Thy servant from presumptuous sin. Out of weakness may *he* be made strong, because Thy hand is laid upon *him;* and then may he have grace to make others strong. Grant this, our prayer, for our Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

For a Person Who Fears that in Dying He Will Lose a Sense of Personal Identity

O THOU, who art from everlasting, and who livest in every creature made in Thy image; we pray for this, Thy servant, that *he* may be delivered from the bondage of the fear of death. Teach *him* that Thou art the God, not of the dead, but of the living; that all souls share in Thy immortal life; that because Thou livest, *he* will live also. Let *him* lose *himself* in Thee, only that *he* may find himself in a more glorious being. Reveal Thyself to *him* as Thou art, an infinitude where there is room for all spirits, who may reflect in diverse ways the glory of Thy love and thought. Take from death its last sting, the

fear that in dying we lose our personality. Give unto us all a larger measure of the trust and the hope that can say with Thine own Son, "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," knowing that Thou wilt not turn away from our cry, but wilt do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. And unto Thee be all the glory in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For A Person Suffering from a Serious Illness

ETERNAL Father, strong to save! stretch forth Thy hand, and graciously heal Thy sick servant whom we remember before Thee. Our help is in Thee. Are we not Thy children, and art Thou not our Father? We bear our brother in the arms of faith into Thy presence, and we ask Thee to lift from off *him* the burden of disease and restore *him* to *his* family and *his* friends, in the fulness of health and strength. To this end we pray that Thou wouldest accompany with Thy favour the various agencies that are being used for *his* recovery. Give insight and skill to the physicians; tenderness and wisdom to the nurses; trust and

confidence and good courage to those who watch and wait in sore anxiety. Fill the sick room with the brightness of Thy presence. O Thou true Physician, who hatest disease and pain and sickness, bring to Thy suffering servant, peace and rest and the healing gift of sleep. "Lord, if *he* sleep, *he* shall do well." Above all bestow upon *him* those spiritual blessings which are better than life. Let this present affliction detach and purify *his* heart and make it meet for Thy dwelling place. Give *him* patience that *he* may bear pain and weakness bravely; that *he* may abandon himself wholly to Thee and lie unreservedly in Thy hands. Grant *him* repentance and pardon for all the sins of the past, and fill *his* soul with visions of a holier future.

Answer these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy only Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Sick Child

MOST merciful and most pitiful Father! visit this child, we beseech Thee, with Thy healing power. We believe that Thou art both able and willing to help us. When Thy Son dwelt among us, He revealed the love and desire of Thy heart by restoring those who were sick in body or in mind in answer to the cry of faith. Thou art the same tender and loving Father to-day. Increase our faith that we too may receive from Thee a gift, even the life of this child. Bless those who minister to *him*. Give them wisdom, skill, tenderness, and an ever-undaunted hope. Endue with healing virtue the means being used to combat his disorder. Lay Thy hand upon *him* to save and to raise *him* up.

We pray for his soul's health. Keep *him* pure and unspotted from the evil that is in the world. Consecrate *him* anew to Thyself that in sickness or in health *he* may be Thine, to witness to Thy Kingdom where reigns the spirit of a child. Bless those who especially love *him* and who now watch and wait with troubled hearts. Banish from them despair. Give them an abundant hope and a living trust and an earnest prayer. This we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For a Person about to Undergo a Surgical Operation

HELP of the helpless, Comfort of the comfortless! we entreat Thee in behalf of this afflicted one who must soon pass through an ordeal, the thought of which tries and vexes *him*. Thou canst heal and Thou canst save. From Thee flows forth eternally a tide of healing energy to destroy the ravages of sickness, pain and death. Set Thy servant, through trust and confidence in Thee, in the currents of Thy saving power, so that *he* may surrender *himself* wholly to Thy keeping. Grant that *he* may fall gently and sweetly asleep, undisturbed in body or in mind. Guard *him* through the hours of unconsciousness, and restore him

in due time to the world on which he has for a while shut his eyes. We thank Thee for the resources of medical science, for their power to assuage pain and bring peace to the suffering nerves. Guide the surgeon's knife, so that through the wounds which it must make, there may enter the forces that cure and save. Give to all who care for Thy servant, physicians and nurses and friends, the wisdom, the patience, the tenderness, which will assure *him* that *he* is safe in Thy hands, and shielded by Thy goodness. Awaken faith in the heart of the sufferer, and of those who watch by his bedside that it may be done unto them according to their faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For a Person Suffering from Acute Bodily Pain

THOU knowest, O Lord, this body of ours. Thou knowest how susceptible it is to misery and discomfort, how along its nerves shoots the thrill of an intolerable agony. Therefore do we beseech Thee for *him* who *asks* our prayers that Thou wouldst have pity upon *him*. Lord, have mercy upon *him* and help *him*. We know that Thou canst, and that Thou art more ready to have compassion than we are to ask it of Thee. Grant *him* such a sense of Thy indwelling presence that *he* may commit himself wholly to Thy care, so that through *his* faith in Thee, Thou mayst give to *him* surcease of pain and the glad consciousness of health.

Bless Thy minister, the physician who seeks to help the ailing body. Give him clearness of mind and skilfulness of touch and tenderness of heart, so that he may become the organ of Thy healing mercy, and enabled to relieve the suffering, and bring peace and strength to the exhausted frame. If for a time the pain must continue, give Thy servant grace to endure it. Let *him* think of the Divine Sufferer, who in meekness and submission endured the Cross, and despised the shame. Upheld by His example may *he* conquer pain and rise out of it purified and strengthened and made more meet for Thy service, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For a Person at the Point of Death

IMMORTAL Father, from Thee we come and to Thee we return. Hear our prayer for this Thy servant, who lies in great weakness, and who, to all human seeming, is about to depart hence. Strengthen and comfort *him* with a sense of Thy peace. Grant *him* to place *his* trust and confidence in Thy gracious promises; and then, though *he* walk through the valley of the shadow of death, *he* need fear no evil. Let *him* put *his* hand in Thine, and in quiet assurance pass with Thee, as a child with *his* father, to Thy home of love and joy and rest. Scatter Thou the clouds of sin and fear. Give *him* a spirit of penitence and

hope. Sustain *him* with a vision of the blessedness which Thou hast prepared for them who, repenting their sins and failures, would be done with self and at one with Thee. Reveal Thy Son Jesus Christ in *his* heart as the Risen One who has conquered death and evil, not for Himself only, but for all the sinful children of men. Take Thy servant into Thy holy keeping, into the nearer embrace of Thy love and mercy. And grant that we may all meet at last in Thy many mansions above, through Jesus Christ our Blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

For an Incurably Crippled Child

MOST merciful Father, whose heart beats in sympathy with the sorrow of Thy children, and whose will is ever working against pain and evil, we beseech Thee in behalf of this child, afflicted with much bodily weakness, sore hindered in the race of life. Inspire *him* with the spirit of patience. Give *him* the virtue of endurance. Teach *him* that even as Thy Son was perfected through suffering meekly borne, so too, every lesser cross may become a gift from Thee, rich in all spiritual blessing. Open to *him*, in Thy good time, the mystery of suffering. Never let *him* fall into the spirit of complaint and discouragement; of doubt and fear;

of introspection and self-pity. Lift *him* out of *himself* that *he* may trust in Thine eternal strength and wisdom; that *he* may think of others who also suffer and are weary and long for comfort. And so may *his* own pain grow less, and *his* own burden grow light. Fill *his* heart with a sense of Thy love; with thanksgiving for all the blessings of *his* daily life; for dear parents, kind friends and good books; for the opportunities of power and service that still remain. Give him some work to do for Thee and enable him to pass from strength to strength until at last *he* see Thee in Thy heavenly Kingdom. We ask this for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For a Person Suffering from a Sense of Loneliness

COMPANION of our souls! Friend that sticketh closer than a brother! Hear our prayers for this Thy servant, who feels lonely and forsaken, alone upon the wide sea of humanity. Thou hast made us, in the inmost ground of our being, with desires for fellowship, with a nature that is unfinished until it completes itself in union with others. Comfort Thy servant with a sense of Divine companionship. May *he* look up into Thy face and learn to say, "I am alone, yet not alone, for the Father is with me." Speak to *him* through other lives. Raise up to *him* friends and brothers, and draw *his* heart to them that the joy of comradeship may be *his;*

that never again may *he* be tempted to say within himself, "Who am I, that I should be remembered among so great a multitude?" May Thine ancient comfort sustain and strengthen *him*, "Though a woman may forget the son of her womb, yet will not I forget Thee." Answer this prayer for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For a Person Haunted with the Fear of having Committed the Unpardonable Sin

O THOU who art Love, behold in pity Thy servant, held in bondage to a secret fear that *he* is beyond thy forgiving mercy, lost in a darkness where Thou art not. Free *him* from the dominion of these sad thoughts. Chase away the phantoms of a morbid imagination, by the health-giving beams of Thy light. Reveal to *him* the infinitude of Thy mercy, so that *he* may be well assured that there is no sin which Thou art not willing to forgive. May *he* rest in faith on Thine own word: "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, Thy transgressions; return unto me, for I have redeemed thee." We pray that Thy blessing may

rest upon all the means that are being used for the restoration of Thy servant to peace of mind. Remove the causes, physical and mental, that make for *his* present misery. Let a spirit of right reason, of a patient trust, of unselfish labour, wean his thoughts from the tyranny of unwholesome and self-centred brooding. And with a mind wholly possessed with a sense of Thy goodness, may *he* give thanks to Thee and praise Thy name evermore. *Amen.*

For a Woman Burdened with Domestic Cares

O THOU who bearest the burdens of Thy children, and faintest not, neither art weary; be present with thy strength and patience to this Thy servant, who, cumbered with much serving, is troubled about many things. Make clear her vision that she may behold the beauty of common things. Teach her that the ordinary task has power to draw her close to Thee. Take from her the spirit of discouragement and repining; of anxious brooding; of untrustful care. Comfort her with the assurance that not the least labour done for Thee is done in vain. Amid the petty cares and irritating concerns of her days, bring her into the secret place of

Thy silence where Thou givest rest and refreshment. Whether resting or working, grant her to be at peace with herself, with Thee, and with the world. Ease her heart, O Lord, of its small troubles and fill it with joy and gladness; and grant her to see even now some fruition of her work in the happiness of those who love her and who call her blessed. And this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For Parents Who Have Lost a Child by Death

FATHER of Mercies and God of all Comfort! look in pity on these, Thy servants, whose joy has been turned into sorrow, whose house has been left unto them desolate. They have drunk of the cup of bitterness; wilt Thou not now give them the cup of consolation? Let not their faith die, nor their light go out in darkness. Give them the spirit of Him who learned obedience by the things which He suffered, so that like Him, they too may say, in meek and filial submission, "Not my will but Thine be done." Comfort them with the assurance that their loved one is at rest in Thee and will be remembered in the day when Thou makest up

the number of Thy jewels. In this hour of trial draw Thy servants close to Thy love and help them to trust Thee and to believe that deeper than the pain and the mystery of death are the everlasting arms of Thy tender mercy. Hear our prayers for the sake of Him who is our only Mediator and Advocate, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

In Remembrance of Departed Friends

LORD of all spirits in all worlds! We remember before Thee our loved ones who have passed into Thy perfect rest. We thank Thee that their night of sorrow has been followed by the joy of Thy everlasting morning. We believe that they are safe in Thee and in Thee we find them "worthier to be loved." We would not, even if we could, bring them back from Thy holy Heaven to our sinful earth, from Thy sweet repose to our sad unrest. It is our joy to know that death has not stayed their spiritual progress; that they are ever advancing to heights not yet attained. They follow the Lamb from fountain to fountain of living waters. Behind

the veil whither they have gone our hearts would also go, and through Thee would hold communion with them for a space. As we contemplate their bliss and think of all the blessing they have wrought us, may our sorrow grow less and our hope grow brighter until Thou dost give them back to us, and us to them, in the land where Thy glory dwelleth. *Amen.*

For Children

ALMIGHTY Father, we bless Thee for the children Thou hast given us, and for all the joys they have brought us. Truly children are a heritage from Thee. We would consecrate them anew to Thy service; we would train them in the knowledge and love of Thy commands. Reveal to them the glory and the beauty of life. Enable them to rise to their supreme opportunities; to cast aside all frivolity and carelessness; and to make ready body and mind for the work that awaits them. Inspire them with a spirit of truth and courage and self-control. Arm them against the temptations of their own hearts and of the world around. Let no evil passion have dominion over them. Write

the law of kindness in their hearts, that they may hate all cruelty with a perfect hatred and love all goodness and mercy with a perfect love. May the Child Christ lead them and teach them, so that as they grow in age they may grow in grace, and at the last may behold Thy face without fear or shame. Grant an answer to our prayer, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For a Mother Grieving for a Wayward Child

O THOU who art more than father and mother to Thy children; hear the prayers and look on the sorrows of this, Thy servant. Thou knowest the infinite yearning of a mother's heart. Thou hast inspired her with a love most like Thine; a love that gives all and pardons all; a love that still prays and waits and hopes when all lesser loves are silent. Thou beholdest the tears of this mother, and we know that not one of them shall fall forgotten of Thee. May a glad surprise come to her by Thine abundant answer to her prayer. Turn the heart of her child to her in renewed love and sorrowful regret; and unite them

evermore in the bonds of a new affection. Say to her, as was said to a mother in the olden time, "Woman, go Thy way. The child of such tears can never perish." We ask Thee to answer our prayer for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For the Aged

O THOU, whose years are throughout all generations, and who abidest though all else passes away; we pray for those whose days are far spent and whose appointed time to depart is drawing nigh. Amid the shadows of evening grant them the vision of Thy glorious morning. As the outward man perishes, may the inner man be renewed day by day. Teach them to bear with patience the infirmities of age. Comfort and sustain them with the hands of friendship and love and sympathy. In their ever-growing loneliness, as friend after friend departs, be Thou to them their faithful Companion, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Take from

them all despair of the world; all regret of vanished days; all impatience with the plans and interests of the present time. Give them a forward look; a joyous faith; and when life's day is ended, grant them to lie down to rest in perfect peace and in the joyous assurance that Thou hast in store for them such good things as pass man's understanding. Hear this our prayer for our Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

For the Poor

O GOD of mercy! Thou knowest the bitterness of poverty and the barrenness it spreads on life. Thou knowest how it darkens and tempts and embitters the soul, and divides man from his brother, and makes faith in Thy goodness and care seem well-nigh impossible. When poverty is a needed discipline, may Thy children bear it with patience, and find in it liberty of soul and enrichment of the world within. But too often it is not of Thy sending. Too often it comes from the selfishness and greed and wrong-doing of men. Be present with Thy help and blessing in homes thus made sad. Forbid that within them the voice of unbelief, or envy, or rebellion should be heard; but may trust in Thee,

and gentle patience and prudent forethought sustain the life of the soul against every threatening ill. Put into the hearts of all good men a love for the poor. Raise up to those who are in need wise friends and counsellors, through whose ministry Thou mayst provide a way of relief. And grant, O Lord, that justice and brotherly love may prevail. May we not only deliver the poor man from his distress, but may we also, in the strength of Thy spirit, attack and overthrow every evil power that works impoverishment and hardship to Thy children. Hear our prayer and grant that those who are poor in this world's goods may be rich in heavenly treasure, honour and peace and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Prosperous

HEAR us, O Lord, in behalf of those to whom Thou hast given the precious gifts of wealth. May they ever praise Thee for Thy goodness, remembering that all skill and wisdom and strength of body or of mind come from Thee, and that they possess nothing which they have not received from Thy hand. Teach them that with Thy gift Thou givest them a great responsibility; that Thou hast lent them their riches not for their own enjoyment only, but to increase the well-being and happiness of the world. May they realise that no material good is to be compared with the joy of lightening the load of another's need. Grant them a spirit of self-denial that they may renounce all

luxury and extravagance in the presence of their brother's poverty. Keep them free from the entanglements of worldly things, from all that wars against simplicity and nobility of life, from all pride and vain glory, from love of power, from false ambitions, from contempt of the poor and the unprivileged. Bestow upon them the grace of the Lord Jesus who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor that we through His poverty might become rich; and may they be willing to follow in His footsteps and to spend and be spent in the service of their brothers. And this we beg for His sake. *Amen.*

For Prisoners

MERCIFUL God whose Providence is over all Thy works, and whose Love embraces Thine erring children; remember for good all who have been judged guilty under the law in our courts of justice; all who suffer the penalty for wrong doing in the house of bondage; all who in mind, body, and soul bear the bitter consequences of crime. Amid the austere justice of man, open in their souls springs of comfort; visit them through Thy Holy Spirit with mercy, sympathy, pardon, and peace. Let Thy Divine compassion awaken in them the desire to return unto Thee in the spirit of meekness and godly sorrow. Teach them, O Father, that no sin is beyond Thy forgive-

ness; that no wound of the soul is too great for Thy healing power. Banish from them alike the spirit of impenitence and of despair. Lift their eyes from their shame and misery, and fix them on the gift Thou art offering them — a new self, free from self-reproach, beautiful with the grace of a restored innocence, and full of the promise of better things. Fill their minds with good thoughts and their hearts with pure longings. Let Thy Spirit breathe within them new resolves, and let all who love Thee, help and strengthen the penitent in his struggle to amend. And, O Lord, if there be any in the gaols and prisons of the world, who suffer wrongfully through the ignorance or malice of men, we pray for them. May they never say, "My

way is hid from the Lord and the justice due to me is passed from my God," but committing their cause to Thee, may they in patience wait for the day when Thou shalt establish their integrity in the eyes of all men. Amid outward distress, let them enjoy Thy peace, the peace of a quiet and innocent mind. Accept our prayers and answer them for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For Doctors of Medicine

O THOU, from whom cometh all healing, who hast created the physician in honour and hast armed him with medicines and skill: we pray for all those whom Thou hast called to practise the healing art. Grant that a double portion of the spirit of counsel and understanding may rest upon them, so that every sufferer that seeks their help may not go away discouraged, but rather cheered and comforted and set upon the road that leads to health. Save Thy servants from the seductions of lower aims; from love of money, or of fame. May the distresses of rich and poor make to them the same solemn appeal of pity. Pour upon them a still larger measure of the enthusiasm of humanity, of

the spirit of self-sacrifice. Draw them into fellowship with those who in every age have laid down their lives for their brethren, and have joined in the procession of Thy noble army of martyrs. Give them still greater victories over disease and pain and death; and put within them a spirit of piety, that would ever say, "Not unto us, but unto Thee, O Lord, be all the glory." We ask this in Christ's name. *Amen.*

For Nurses

WE thank Thee, most loving God, that Thou hast put it into the hearts of so many to give their lives to the helping and comforting of Thy children, the sick. We pray for them that Thou wouldest grant them the needed strength of body and of mind for their heavy tasks. They need patience with the fretful and the wayward; sympathy with the despondent and the suffering; power to say the needed word; skill to guide the wandering mind; tenderness to touch with healing strength the bruised and afflicted body; wisdom to learn that there is a time to be silent, that the heart knows a secret bitterness with which no stranger can intermeddle. When we think of the greatness of the

work to which Thou hast called Thy servants, we ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" Not of themselves, but of Thee, cometh their sufficiency. Out of the riches of Thy grace, supply all their need, we beseech Thee. May they ever bear in mind the glory Thou hast put upon them in calling them to share with Jesus Christ, the Servant of humanity, in ministering to those who have fallen by the wayside of life; that at the last they may hear with gladness His gracious word, "I was sick and ye visited me. Enter ye into the joy of your Lord." These petitions we present in His name and we ask Thee to hear us for His sake. *Amen.*

For Students

HEAR us, O never-failing Light, Fount of all Truth, Source of all Wisdom, as we pray for those who are called to the tasks of learning, to the discipline of the intellect. Inspire all students with the desire for reality in thought, that they may know Thee, the ultimate Truth, the Infinite Mind, whose thoughts they can but think again. Cast out all intellectual vanity and vain-glory. Forbid that they should ever pretend to a knowledge they do not possess. Make them to be faithful in all their work, loyal to their teachers, earnestly desirous of the best gifts, yet ever rejoicing in another's success. Fill them with great hopes for the future, with pure and unselfish ambitions, that

in due time they may give of what they have received and impart some good to those who are ignorant and out of the way. Spirit of all counsel and knowledge! Guide the feet of Thy servants into the paths of eternal life. May their souls be lamps of Thine, burning and shining with the truth, dimmed by no evil passion, darkened by no deadly sin. May it be theirs to have the secret of Christ, which is the secret of blessedness, without which all other learning is but dust and ashes. We ask this for his sake. *Amen.*

For Teachers

WE bless Thee, O God, for the men and women whom Thou hast called to the work of training the young. We thank Thee for the influence of teachers upon our lives and characters. We would never forget the greatness of the debt we owe them. We remember how patient they were with our dulness, how forbearing with our perverseness, how sympathetic with our discouragement, how helpful and generous in all their work of guidance and instruction.

We bless Thee for the self-denial and devotion of Thy servants who in school and college and university are making the generation that is to be. Grant that we may uphold them by our interest and prayers and good-

will. Sustain them in all their labour of love. In hours of despondency, cheer them; in hours of weariness, be present with Thy renewing strength. Glorify their effort with a sense of Thy presence. Fill them with a consciousness of the solemn issues of their calling. May they give to those committed to their charge not their time and talent only, but themselves as well. Grant them to remember that they are forming human souls, whose hopes and fears, faiths and doubts reach out beyond the passing years. Keep them mindful of that hour when the Master of masters will appear, Christ the Lord of angels and of men, to examine every man's conscience and to reward every man as his work shall be. We pray in His Name. *Amen.*

For Handworkers

O THOU, who workest hitherto, and still workest in creation and in providence; be very gracious to all who are called to lives of toil, and who bear the heat and the burden of the day. Grant them strength for every task, lest they become discouraged and their spirits faint and fail within them. Whatsoever their hands find to do, let them do it with all their might in remembrance of the night coming on so fast when no man can work. Inspire them with a sense of duty, that they may be daunted by no hardness, tempted to no stint of effort or of care. Grant them to meet the tasks of each day with a bright and cheerful face, and when evening comes to thank

Thee that they have been enabled to add a little to the wealth, the well-being and the happiness of the world. And while they work for the bread that perishes, help them, O Lord, to remember that other Bread, of which, if any man eat, he shall never hunger again. Take from them all class-jealousy and envy of others richer in worldly things than themselves; all greed and self-seeking, all hatred and bitterness; and fill their hearts with tenderness and love toward all men, rich and poor alike. Never let them forget the dignity of work, or sink into the servile mind through men-pleasing. But rather let them recall the figure of Thy Son who dwelt among us in the guise of a workman, and turned every human duty into a

divine privilege. Reveal to each worker the secret of Christ, that work may nowhere be a curse but everywhere a blessing and that at the last those who have laboured here in sweat and trial may hear Thy voice saying to them, "Well done, good and faithful servants; you have been faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things." Grant this for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For Ministers of Religion

ALMIGHTY God our Heavenly Father, we bless Thee for those Thou hast set apart to minister in spiritual things. Give them an unction from the Holy One that they may speak the truth in love. Put within them the spirit of prophet and seer that, in the presence of evil or wrong, in the society or the individual, they may cry aloud and spare not. Grant that they may so proclaim Thy Word that the careless may be arrested; the sorrowing, comforted; the tempted, made strong; the weary and heavy-laden, refreshed. Bless Thy servants as they break the bread of life among Thy people, whether in the ministrations of Thy House, or in private intercourse with those who seek their help. Be with them in hours

of despondency. When heart and flesh fail, be Thou the strength of their hearts and their portion forever. Keep alive within them the fires of faith and courage that they may never despair of the world or of themselves. May they be willing to bear the reproach of Christ and even to be counted fools for His sake, if only they may win some souls for truth and goodness. Consecrate them to a divine simplicity of purpose that, renouncing all earthly prizes and ambitions, they may answer with glad hearts Thy call to work with Thee for the redemption of the world. And in this work let them find their all-sufficient reward. These graces and gifts we beseech Thee to give through Him whom Thou hast made Lord and Head of Thy Kingdom. *Amen.*

For Missionaries

O THOU who hast made all nations of men to seek Thee and to find Thee; bless, we beseech Thee, Thy sons and daughters who have gone forth, into distant lands, bearing in their hands Thy Word of Life. We rejoice that, touched with the enthusiasm of Christ, so many have consecrated their lives to proclaiming the message of Thy love to those other sheep of Thine who are not of our fold that they may be united with us and that there may be one flock and one Shepherd. Help Thy ministering servants to recognise the fragments of truth and goodness that are ever found where men are sincere and to claim these glimpses of Thyself as the prophecies of a

fuller revelation. When discouraged by the hardness of their task, and the meagre fruit of all their labour, give them faith to see the far-off whitening harvest. Inspire them with Thy gracious promise that though the sower may go forth weeping, bearing precious seed, he will come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him. Comfort them in their exile and loneliness with a sense of Thy companionship and with the prayers and sympathy of their brethren at home. Through them let Thy Word have free course and be glorified. And so let Thy Kingdom come, and Thy Will be done on earth as in Heaven, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

For Friends on a Journey

O GOD, our Guide and Guardian; hear us as we pray for our friends who now are gone upon a journey. Though separated from us, they are near to Thee. We commit them to Thy care, in the assured confidence that Thou wilt suffer no real ill to befall them. Be to them a Light in the darkness, a Covert in the tempest, a Hiding-place from the wind, and as the Shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Go with them where they go; and dwell where they dwell. To those who open their doors unto them, grant that they may impart some spiritual gift, whether in word or in deed. In due time bring them back in safety and contentment to their home in the fulness of health and

strength. Take us all, as we journey through life, into Thy holy keeping. Grant us all, when the days of our wayfaring are past, to dwell in Thy abode of rest, in unbroken fellowship with all whom we have loved. We ask this for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving for Restoration to Health

O LORD, Giver of all good, we render unto Thee thanks and praise for Thy kindness to this, Thy servant, whom Thou hast raised out of weakness and made to stand strong by Thy love. Thou hast been with *him* in sickness and in pain. Thou didst withdraw *him* from the world for a season that Thou mightest speak with *him* alone. And after *his* affliction, Thou hast comforted *him*. Thou hast turned *his* heaviness into joy, *his* mourning into gladness. For Thy mercy, we bless Thee. We pray that the time still left *him* may be consecrated anew to Thy service. Send *him* forth, O Lord, to the tasks of *his* daily life, but not without Thy

blessing in *his* heart. In the joy of health be still *his* Guide and Guardian. Amid the trials and difficulties of *his* days, may *he* hear behind *him* that faithful word, saying, "This is the way. Walk ye in it." Grant that *he* may always keep this way and incline to Thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving for Victory over a Bad Habit

O THOU, who proclaimest liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prisons to them that are bound; we rejoice that Thou hast brought the soul of this Thy servant out of prison that *he* might praise Thy name. Thou didst inspire *him* with pure desires. Thou didst rouse *him* again and again from despair and didst sustain *him* in the fight for freedom. And now we bless Thee that Thou hast crowned *his* efforts with success. Abide with *him* and in *him* that henceforth *he* may bear the fruits of good living. So fill *him* with love and holiness, with courage and trust, that through all the coming days temptation will lose its power. Let the dead

past bury its dead. Go with *him* into the new world of joy and peace and health. Inspire *him* with the resolve to do something for Thy sake, to tell another imprisoned soul what great things Thou hast done that, if it please Thee, *he* may have a double joy. Hear our Thanksgiving and bless us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

For Personal Use

At Night

MOST merciful Father, give me an evening blessing. Pardon me wherein throughout this day I have offended Thee; accept and bless whatever I have said or done in accordance with Thy will. Prosper whatever has been right and good in my work and purposes; bring to nought whatever is displeasing to Thee. And now, O Lord, as I commit myself to sleep, I would give myself to Thee. Grant me sound and refreshing rest, unscared by evil dreams, undisturbed by faithless worries. And raise me up in the morning refreshed in body and in mind and made fit for Thy service. Grant me Thy peace now and evermore for Thy name's sake. *Amen.*

At Night

I WILL lay me down in peace and take my rest, for it is Thou, Lord, only that makest me to dwell in safety. Let me sleep the sleep of him who is heartily sorry for his sins, and is in love and charity with his neighbours. I would not seek rest this night while cherishing any ill-will against brother or friend. I would forgive all who may have wronged me as I hope to be forgiven. In the darkness as in the light let me be wholly Thine. If I should waken in the night-watches grant me patience and quietness that I may commune with mine own heart and with Thee. Wake me in the morning strengthened in mind and body, with a heart intent only on the doing of Thy will. *Amen.*

At Night

O BLESSED God, into Thine all-protecting hands I commend my soul and my body that no sin may stain the one, nor disease injure the other. Open my heart now and enter in and fill it with Thy love. With the fire of Thy love burn away the stains of sin and make me pure and true. As I sink into unconsciousness, let it be with thoughts of Thee, of Thy tender mercy, of Thine infinite goodness. Let me feel myself at rest in Thine everlasting arms, and when I awake, let it be with bright and joyous thoughts, with the glad assurance that neither height nor depths, nor any other creature, can separate me from Thy love which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord. *Amen.*

In the Morning

IN the morning, O Lord, would I direct my prayer unto Thee and would look up. Vouchsafe unto me the fellowship of the Holy Spirit as a Spirit of power, of freedom, of purity, and of wisdom. Let Thy Spirit bear witness with my spirit that in spite of weakness and shortcoming I am Thy child and heir to all the riches of Thy grace in Christ Jesus. O let me walk this day and every day worthy of my high vocation! Set a seal upon my lips that in no word I may offend Thee. Keep my heart in Thy love and knowledge and grant that this day I may do something solely for Thy sake, in the strength of Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

In the Morning

FATHER, I thank Thee for Thy mercies which are new every morning. For the gift of sleep; for health and strength; for the vision of another day with its fresh opportunities of work and service; for all these and more than these, I thank Thee. Before looking on the face of men I would look on Thee, who art the health of my countenance and my God. Not without Thy guidance would I go forth to meet the duties and tasks of the day. Strengthen me so that in all my work I may be faithful; amid trials, courageous; in suffering, patient; under disappointment, full of hope in Thee. Grant this for Thy goodness' sake. *Amen.*

In the Morning

O LORD, my refreshment and my strength, throughout the night Thou hast spread Thy hand upon me for a covering, and while this little earth has swept on its way through boundless space, I have rested in perfect safety under the shadow of the Almighty. Thy faithfulness rebukes my want of faith; Thy love, my selfishness; Thy unresting work, my sinful sloth. Lift up my soul into communion with Thy life and then I will go forth to serve Thee and in Thee my fellow-men, in newness of spirit; unto Thee be all the glory now and evermore. *Amen.*

In the Morning

O GOD, I know not what a day may bring forth. In perfect confidence I would place my hand in Thine and follow Thee this day, whether Thou leadest me to joy or sorrow, pleasure or pain, success or failure. I know not what is good for me. Thou knowest. My deepest desire is to love what Thou lovest, and will what Thou willest. Hear my prayer for Jesus Christ my Redeemer's sake. *Amen.*

In Time of Temptation

STRONG Son of God, who wast tried and tempted to the uttermost, yet without sin; be near me now with Thy strength and give me the victory over this evil desire that threatens to ruin me. I am weak, O Lord, and full of doubts and fears. There are moments when I am afraid of myself, when the world and the flesh and the devil seem more powerful than the forces of good. But now I look to Thee in whom dwelleth all the fulness of grace and might and redemption. Blessed Saviour! I take Thee afresh to be my Refuge, my Covert, my Defence, my strong Tower from the enemy. Hear me and bless me now and ever. *Amen.*

In Time of Suffering

O LORD, my God, I am in Thy hands, I resign myself unreservedly to Thee. Relieve my pain, or strengthen me to bear it. O be not silent unto me, lest, if Thou be silent, my faith should die and my hope perish. Speak to me and I ask no more. For I know if Thou hearest me, then I have the petitions I desire of Thee, through Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Amen.*

Before Partaking at Holy Communion

HEAVENLY Father, Thou art Light and in Thee is no darkness at all; enlighten my mind in the knowledge of Thy will. Thou art Life; send Thy healing power through my body and my soul. Thou art Love; look on me so that my heart may be opened to Thine and every veil between Thee and me be burned away. May I go to Thy Holy Table and partake of Thy Bounty, with a heart purified from sin, with a conscience eased of its guilt. Make my repentance bitter that my love may be strong. Wash me and make me clean that I may worthily receive Thy Son Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of His passion and be united with Him,

that I may abide in Him as the branch abides in the Vine. Be pleased, O Lord, to answer me for his sake. *Amen.*

After Partaking at Holy Communion

BLESSED art Thou, O God our Father. I thank Thee with joyful heart because Thou hast vouchsafed to lead me into the mystery of the blessedness of Thy Holy Sacrament. I have taken into my hands the memorials of the Saviour's dying love. Here would I consecrate myself anew to Him; here would I make fresh vows of fidelity to His cause; here would I rise above all doubts and fears and boldly say, "Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee." O Bread and Wine of God, be Thou the joy and strength of my life, now and evermore. *Amen.*

DATE DUE

MAR 12 '79			
[redacted]			
MAR 5 '74			
APR 4 '75			
APR 28 '75			
[redacted]			
~~APR 30 '81~~			
~~JUN 5 1986~~			
~~FEB 26 1987~~			
GAYLORD			PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library
1 1012 01026 6270